



# TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# RISK REMINDER

## Signaling Techniques

Proper signaling can greatly increase the efficiency and productivity in a work zone or project site, whether it is guiding a dump truck, heavy equipment, forklift, or a bucket truck. Improper signaling can kill or injure workers as well as cause severe property damage.

Know the signals. If you have to, get with the operator and coordinate what signals mean. Allow only one person to give signals. Be sure the operator knows who the signal person is.



The signal person must:

- Always be in a position to see both the operator and the work area.
- Always watch the load; the operator must watch the signal person.
- Never move a suspended load over workers.
- Always warn workers when loads are being moved in their area.
- Watch for overhead power lines and any other obstructions.
- Remember the proper type of signaling operation—for a truck, forklift or crane.
- Always signal on the driver's side.
- Be consistent in giving signals.
- Use hand signals.
- The spotter must watch where they are walking.

Remember it only takes one small mistake on the part of the signal person to cause a severe injury or major property damage. Make sure you and the operator understand each other and the signals to be used.