

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-011

USE OF HAND SIGNALS

QUESTION:

“Are there any standard hand signals to use when working with a vessel in distress?”



AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

Checking the active duty side did not reveal any standardized hand signals. Whatever hand signals that crews on both the towing vessel and distress vessel agree upon is considered an acceptable method of communicating during the evolution.”

The goal for hand signals as a way to communicate between the two vessels is to establish signals that the two vessels can agree upon when the towing evolution ensues. In case of night operations, a flashlight should be used to communicate. If the disabled vessel does not have a flashlight, give them one to use.

Suggested hand signals are listed below:

*Warren D. Edman
AQEC/SNC
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From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”

