

Additional hand signals we use:

In addition to the MSF hand signals (hand out sheet), experience has shown that these signals also help:

Start your engines - Get ready to pull out.

Signal motion: Extend the arm up, point up with one finger and circle the hand/arm in a “wind up” motion.

Explanation: First, we usually give a 5 minute verbal warning (may be longer warning in cold weather) Then this signal is given when we appear near to ready to move. You can pass this signal to other bikers if they can't see the road captain. When (and only when) you individually are ready to roll, give the “thumbs up” response signal where the road captain/tailgunner can see it.

Biker is ready to roll.

Signal motion: “Thumbs Up” held where the Road Captain and/or tailgunner can see.

Explanation: This is an INDIVIDUAL signal that YOU give ONLY when your bike is going and you are ready to put it in gear and drive away. After the Road Captain sees (or hears from the tailgunner) that everyone is ready, he will head out WITHOUT further signal. Be ready.

Check spacing (some may need to expand their space.)

Signal motion: Left hand touches the left side of the helmet then the left arm is extended up and out until the arm is straight and pointed up at a 45 degree angle. The signal is repeated several times.

Explanation: Some riders may be following too closely and need to increase their space to the MSF recommended 2sec/1sec distances, as appropriate. Check your space, adjust accordingly. NOT ALL RIDERS may need to increase distance. Be safe. (The end result after this signal is that all riders are well spaced.)

Tighten up formation (some may need to close their space)

Signal Motion: With the arm in a “right turn” signal position but with the fist closed, pump the arm up and down several times (forearm stays pointing straight up during pumping motion.)

Explanation: Some riders may be allowing too large a gap for group hand signal communication or safety and need to close up their space to the MSF recommended 2 or 1 sec. distances, IF THEY CAN SAFELY DO SO. Check your space, adjust accordingly. NOT ALL RIDERS may need to decrease distance. Be safe. (The end result after this signal is that all riders are well spaced.)

Hazard to the side of the road (bicyclist, pedestrian, moving car, cows etc.)

Signal Motion: With the left arm you point in a curving motion above your head to the right side of the road - repeat several times.

Explanation: Where there is activity on the right side of the road (even off the road) that may affect safe travel, this warns to watch out for (and, if necessary all move to the left of the lane to avoid) bicyclists, pedestrians, cars that have drivers and may pull into the road or similar potential hazards.