



Grade 4 Harvesting Demonstration Resource:

Code of Whistle Signals

Steam traction engines were used to power threshing machines. Skilled engineers and tankmen were required to safely operate these engines as part of the threshing crew. Unlike today's farmers, who can rely on cell phones and CB radios to communicate with their harvest crew, so steam operators came up with their own way to share information across the noisy field using the steamer whistle.



1 (one) short blast means to stop.

2 (two) short blasts means the engine is about to begin work.

3 (three) medium short blasts means that the engine will soon need more sheaves and the grain haulers should hurry.

1 (one) very long blast, followed by **3 (three)** short blasts means the water in the boiler is low and the water hauler should hurry.

Many short, rapid blasts in a row is a signal for fire, accident, or other serious problem.