

W20-3

Road Closed Ahead

**CATEGORY**

Warning Signs

SHAPE

Diamond

COLOR

Orange background, black legend

TYPICAL CA MINIMUM SIZE

48" x 48" on conventional roads; 60" x 60" on expressways and freeways

COMMON TCP PLACEMENT

Advance warning area, ahead of the work

CA MUTCD REFERENCE

CA MUTCD Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control), Chapter 6F; warning-sign design in Part 2C

FIELD USE NOTES

Warns that the road ahead is closed and that through travel will not be possible, giving drivers time to turn or follow a detour before reaching the closure. In the field, W20-3 Road Closed Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include advance warning ahead of a full roadway closure; used with R11-2 / R11-3a and detour markers; common on utility cuts, paving, and emergency closures. Always confirm its size, retroreflective sheeting, spacing, and placement against the CA MUTCD 2026 and the reviewing agency before finalizing the traffic control plan.

Official MUTCD reference: https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs_2024.htm