W21-3

Road Machinery Ahead

CATEGORY
Warning Signs

SHAPE
Diamond

COLOR
Orange background, black legend

TYPICAL CA MINIMUM SIZE
48" × 48" on conventional roads; 60" × 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

The W21-3 Road Machinery Ahead sign is a California MUTCD work zone warning sign. It is shown here as an educational reference with the official FHWA Standard Highway Signs layout and California sizing guidance. In the field, W21-3 Road Machinery Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include used where road machinery ahead conditions apply on a California project; selected and sized per the CA MUTCD and the roadway type; coordinated with the overall traffic control plan and permit. 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

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