

# W21-5

## Shoulder Work

**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**

Approach to the activity area

**CA MUTCD REFERENCE**

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

### FIELD USE NOTES

Warns that work is taking place on the shoulder ahead, alerting drivers to workers and equipment near the edge of the traveled way. In the field, W21-5 Shoulder Work is typically positioned at the approach to the activity area. Common deployments include shoulder repairs, striping, and maintenance; operations that keep travel lanes open; paired with channelizing devices along the shoulder. 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](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-shs_2024.htm)