

W21-5a

Shoulder Closed

**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 the shoulder is closed ahead and is not available for stopping, disabled vehicles, or travel through the work area. In the field, W21-5a Shoulder Closed is typically positioned at the approach to the activity area. Common deployments include shoulder closures for staging, storage, or work space; used with channelizing devices closing the shoulder; common on freeway and expressway shoulder operations. 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