

W3-3

Stop Ahead

**CATEGORY**

Warning Signs

SHAPE

Diamond

COLOR

Orange background, black legend (temporary traffic control use)

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 a STOP sign or temporary stop control is ahead, giving drivers advance notice to slow down before they reach the mandatory stop. In the field, W3-3 Stop Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include advance warning of a temporary STOP sign at a crossover or closure; obscured or relocated stop control at a construction approach; one-lane crossover approaches where stop control is in use. 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