

W21-7

Utility Work 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 utility work is taking place on or near the roadway ahead, alerting drivers to utility crews, equipment, and possible lane or shoulder impacts. In the field, W21-7 Utility Work Ahead is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include utility maintenance and installation in the right-of-way; short-duration and mobile utility operations; encroachment-permit work for utility agencies. 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