

W3-4

Be Prepared To Stop

**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 drivers that they may have to stop ahead, giving advance notice of a flagging station, queue, or signal that can require stopping. In the field, W3-4 Be Prepared To Stop is typically positioned at the advance warning area, ahead of the work. Common deployments include ahead of flagging stations and one-lane control; ahead of temporary traffic signals and queues; paired with W20-7 Flagger in the warning sequence. 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