

Work Zone Safety

Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Control



June 2007

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

Warning Signs

Construction and maintenance warning signs are used extensively in street and highway work zones. These signs are normally diamond shaped, having a black symbol or message on an orange background. As a general rule, these signs are located on the right-hand side of the street or highway. On divided roadways with a median of 8' or greater, both left and right sides should be signed.

Size

The standard size for advance warning signs in work zones is generally 48" by 48". Where Right of Way or geometric conditions preclude use of 48" by 48" signs, 36" by 36" signs may be used.

Mounting

Standards for height and lateral clearance of post mounted roadside signs are included in the *Virginia Work Area Protection Manual*. Signs mounted on temporary supports may be at lower heights but the bottom of the sign shall not be less than one foot above the pavement elevation.

Sheeting Requirement

Warning signs shall be fluorescent orange prismatic lens sheeting for daytime or nighttime use. Roll-up type material signs, or an approved composite type sign, may be used on portable sign supports for up to three (3) consecutive days (72 hours). Mesh signs are not allowed.

Spacing of Signs

Signs shall be spaced as follows:

Spacing of Advance Warning Signs	
Urban Street with 25 mph or less posted speed.	100' - 200'
Urban Streets with 30 to 35 mph posted speed limit.	225' - 275'
Roadways with 45 mph or less posted speed limit.	350' - 500'
Roadways with greater than 45 mph posted speed limit.	500' - 800'
Limited Access Highways	1300' - 1500'

Removal of Signs

To retain the validity and respect of advance warning signs, when operations have ceased or conditions have changed such that the warning signs are no longer warranted, the signs and portable sign supports shall be removed from the roadway.

Logging Operations on VDOT Roads (6/1/09)

Logging entrances must conform to current 2007 VDOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines. Effective immediately, all logging operations that do not meet these standards will be shut down by the local VDOT residency or area headquarters until the proper signs are purchased. The proper signs for these operations are TRUCKS ENTERING HIGHWAY.

