

	SHARP SHOULDER SIGN		<i>Issued: JULY 2010</i>
			<i>Revised: NOV 2017</i>
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	WARNING SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION		

General

It is common to encounter long stretches of highway with sideslopes that may present a hazard to errant motorists, particularly on some three-digit provincial highways. However, due to the length of the hazard it is not always feasible to mitigate the hazard immediately.

Standard

A sharp shoulder represents a situation where the steep grade and height of the highway sideslope embankment presents a hazard to errant vehicles, and may allow vehicles to rollover. A sideslope is considered a “hazard” if barriers are warranted using Figure H3.4 or Figure H3.5 in the Roadside Design Guide. It may not always be practical to install long sections of guardrail or do side slope improvements to mitigate the hazard. In such cases, it is recommended that motorists be warned of the hazard by way of Sharp Shoulder signage.

Sharp Shoulder signs provide a warning to motorists that running off the road in the area may be hazardous, and caution should be used. The sign consists of black text on a yellow background.

The standard size of a Sharp Shoulder sign is 750 mm x 750 mm.



WA-100	750 mm x 750 mm	
Colour	Symbol and Border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM, Type IX or XI	

The sign may be supplemented with a standard distance tab if the hazard extends along several kilometres of the highway.



WA-28-T	750 mm x 450 mm	
Colour	Message and border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM, Type IX or XI	

A second version of the Sharp Shoulder sign is the WD-A-100 sign, and is intended for temporary conditions such as work zones. The WD-A-100 sign consists of black text on an orange background, and can be used for work zone applications where sharp shoulders or shoulder drop-offs are present.



WD-A-100	750 mm x 750 mm 900 mm x 900 mm	
Colour	Symbol and Border Background	Black Orange
Sheeting	ASTM, Type VIII	

Guidelines for Use

Sharp Shoulder signs should be installed where all of the following conditions are met:

- Sideslope and embankment height are such that a hazard, as defined in the Roadside Design Guide, exists under normal (non-work zone) conditions;
- Hazard mitigation (flattening sideslope, barrier protection, etc.) is not feasible/practical; and

- A history of run-off-road collisions exists, or the sign is a part of a work zone traffic accommodation strategy.

Guidelines for Placement

Sharp Shoulder signs (WA-100) should be placed 200 to 300 metres in advance of the qualifying location or section of highway to advise motorists of the potentially hazardous conditions. On two-way highways, signs are installed on the right-hand side of the highway in the qualifying direction(s) of travel. On divided highways, signs are installed on the same side of the highway as the hazardous conditions in the qualifying direction(s) of travel.

Where the hazard is present over long sections of highway, Sharp Shoulder signs should be placed no closer than 3 km apart unless there is a major intersection within a 3 km section between signs. In this case it may be desirable to install an additional sign beyond the intersection.

Sign placement should be in accordance with the Recommended Practices Placement of Signs guideline.

Placement of Sharp Shoulder signs intended for temporary conditions (WD-A-100) should comply with Alberta Transportation's most recent edition of *Traffic Accommodation in Work Zones*.

References to Standards

<i>Roadside Design Guide</i>	H3.2.2.1 Sideslopes
<i>Recommended Practices, Section: General</i>	Placement of Signs
<i>Traffic Accommodation in Work Zones 2008</i>	9. Traffic Control Devices Standard Drawings