



Policy #6305

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Policy Title: Roadside Brush Control

Policy No.: 6305

Approval: County Council

Effective Date: December 11, 2013

Approved Date: December 11, 2013

Reviewed Date: September 10, 2018

Supersedes Policy No.: New

Policy Statement: Mountain View County (the County) will direct removal of brush on county road allowances.

Purpose: The removal of brush from county ditches is vital for the safety of the public. Brush and/or trees growing in the road allowance can cause many problems including reduced visibility of traffic, signs, vehicles and wildlife. Additionally brush and trees can cause excess snow drifting and reduced drainage. Brush is controlled along roadsides to minimize drifting of snow, provide optimum drying/melting of the road surface, unimpeded drainage, and to protect the integrity of our road structures.

Principles:

1. The County reserves the right to maintain any public roadway as deemed appropriate by the County.
2. This Policy does not apply to Provincially Controlled highways, private roads, or roads not under the jurisdiction of the County, e.g. Power lines and utility right of ways.



Mountain View
C O U N T Y

Procedure # 6305-01

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Procedure Title: Roadside Brush Control

Procedure No.: 6305-01

Approval: CAO

Effective Date: December 11, 2013
Approved Date: December 11, 2013
Reviewed Date: September 10, 2018
Amended Date: September 14, 2022

Supersedes Procedure No.: New

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “**Brush**” will be defined as trees and shrubs up to 15 centimeters in diameter
- 1.2 “**Mechanical Brush Removal**” will be defined as cutting and mulching undesirable brush by a mechanical brush cutter.
- 1.3 “**Chemical Brush Control**” will be defined as registered herbicide application at recommended rates, labelled for the control of undesirable brush less than 3 meters in height.

2. Brush Control and Removal Procedures

- 2.1 Priority is given to collector roads. An inspection by County staff will be conducted to determine priority and removal options
- 2.2 Preventative Mechanical and Chemical Brushing will annually occur consistent with the standards and good practices as set out under the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA) Standards and Good Practices, the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides, and in accordance with applicable Federal and Provincial legislation.
- 2.3 Chemical Brush control will be used to control brush, saplings and to increase effectiveness of the mechanical cutters, Chemical Brush Control will not take place within 30 meters of water bodies, no spray agreements, shelterbelts, gardens, dwellings or other sensitive locations.
- 2.4 Brush within 30 meters of an intersection or traffic control sign will be removed/controlled.
- 2.5 Brush will be removed at the request of Operational Services for safety and road maintenance concerns.
- 2.6 Brush removal/control will only be performed when environmental conditions are favorable.
- 2.7 Within 30 meters of the access to, or directly in front of a residence/farmstead, all brush will be removed within 2.5 meters (8 feet) of the road shoulder, or greater to maintain safe sight lines. Reasonable attempts will be made to contact landowners affected by these brushing activities. This may include notification through verbal communications, newspaper advertisements or the County website.

- 2.8 If requested by the landowner, ornamental brush may be left in the County road allowance within 30 meters of the access to, or directly in front of a residence/farmstead providing safe sight lines are maintained.
- 2.9 Under all other circumstances brushing shall be done from the road to the fence line.
- 2.10 Efforts will be made to remove brushing debris from approaches, roads and any other potentially hazardous locations.
- 2.11 Brush along the rest of the property shall only be left if the landowner's derived benefits from the trees in terms of shelter outweigh the Municipality's benefits of having the trees removed. At all times, the benefits associated with intersection safety and the protection of County road infrastructure shall take priority.
- 2.12 Brushing requests from the public may be taken and, if approved, will be added to the schedule based on priority.
- 2.13 Brush removal on private property or an undeveloped road allowance shall only be done if it benefits the County. A right of entry agreement shall be completed prior to entry onto private land.
- 2.14 Trees in excess of brushing equipment capabilities may be removed by Operational Services.
- 2.15 No compensation will be given to landowners for trees or brush removed from the road allowance, or between the fence lines that appear to mark the edges of the road allowance.

3. Private Removal of Brush or Trees on Developed County Road Allowance

- 3.1 Permission must be provided by the County's Operational Services Department for any landowner wishing to remove brush or trees from a developed County road allowance (e.g. Brushing fence lines) and the Government of Alberta through their permitting process.
- 3.2 The landowner will be responsible for all liability and expense for the clearing process, no liability or expense will be covered by Mountain View County, unless it would be of mutual benefit. If there is a mutual benefit an agreement must be reached with the County, prior to removal.
- 3.3 Cleared trees or brush cannot be piled or stored on the road allowance.
- 3.4 Any marketable timber must be salvaged as per Government of Alberta requirements.