



# 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

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**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.



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## 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 major and minor 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 reduce the re-growth of saplings and control brush deemed too small for Mechanical Brush Removal. 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.
- 2.8 Reasonable attempts will be made to contact landowners affected by the brushing activities. This may include notification through verbal communications, newspaper ads or pamphlets.

- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 Under all other circumstances brushing shall be done from the road to the fenceline.
- 2.11 Efforts will be made to remove brushing debris from approaches, roads and any other potentially hazardous locations.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 Brushing requests from the public may be taken and if approved will be added to the schedule based on priority.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 Trees in excess of Agricultural Service Board equipment capabilities may be removed manually by Operational Services Department.
- 2.16 No compensation will be given to adjacent landowners for volunteer tree species 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 County Road Allowance**

- 3.1 Written permission must be provided by the County for any landowner wishing to remove brush or trees from a County road allowance (e.g. Brushing fence lines). Brush removal requests on undeveloped road allowance licenses will be referred to Agricultural Services. Brush removal requests on developed roads will be referred to Operational Services.
- 3.2 Written permission must be provided by the County, regardless of an Undeveloped Road Allowance Licence, for any landowner wishing to remove brush or trees from an undeveloped road allowance adjacent to their property.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Cleared trees or brush cannot be piled or stored on the road allowance.
- 3.5 Any marketable timber must be salvaged as per Sustainable Resource Development, Government of Alberta requirements. (This refers to spruce and pine that is of marketable value and does not include poplar and aspen.)