



## COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

### BALANCING RURAL HERITAGE WITH A DIVERSE ECONOMY

#### **POLICY OBJECTIVE:**

The County of St. Paul desires to conduct spraying operations in accordance with the appropriate regulations of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and industry standards such as the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta code of practices.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

##### **A) SAFETY PROCEDURES**

- 1) The County of St. Paul will incorporate the following safety procedures while performing roadside spraying along County roads:
  - a) Long Sleeved Shirts, Long pants and chemical resistant footwear are required to be worn during spraying operations. It is also recommended that all outside clothing be laundered daily.
  - b) Respirators and eye protection shall be provided in each spray truck.
  - c) Rubber gloves and aprons shall be provided for mixing and pouring chemicals.
  - d) Employees shall always stand upwind when mixing and pouring chemicals.
  - e) Employees shall mix chemical in a well-ventilated area.
  - f) Employees shall ensure that spill containment equipment is present in spray units (absorbent material, activated charcoal, etc.).
  - g) Employees shall keep record of amount of chemical used as well as location and date of application.
  - h) Only spray when wind is less than 16 km/hr.
  - i) Only spray when the temperature is less than 30 degrees Celsius.
  - j) No smoking or eating when spraying or mixing chemicals.
  - k) Always follow label for mixing, application and storage of product.
  - l) If leaks are found on equipment transfer product to a container that does not leak and make sure it is labeled properly.

**B) SPRAYING GUIDELINES:**

- 1) The County will hire certified applicators for the municipal weed inspector position when possible. When situations are not possible, authorized assistants will be used.
- 2) The spraying program will be advertised in April or early May of each year. County No Spray Agreements will be advertised at the same time. This advertisement will be in the local paper for a period of not less than one week.
- 3) The County will spray any municipal road allowance as deemed necessary.
- 4) The County will use appropriate registered chemicals in their roadside spraying program.
- 5) Spraying will only take place when the weather and wind conditions warrant. The County will keep a daily log of roads sprayed, chemical used and weather conditions in accordance with Alberta environment.
- 6) Brush that is over 2.5 meters in height will not be sprayed, unless otherwise directed by the agricultural fieldman.
- 7) Areas that have been brushed or mulched will be sprayed a full growing season after work has been completed.
- 8) No spray zones can be applied for on a yearly basis by land owners. This will be in accordance with No Spray policy (No Spray Agreement attached).
- 9) The County will have the right to refuse to enter into No Spray agreements with any land owner.
- 10) County roadsides shall not be used as the non-pesticide buffer zone required for *Organic Farming Operations*.

- 11) The County will only use products registered with the pest management regulatory agency. Products must also be specific to the job, cost effective and try to minimize the environmental footprint.

C) **STORAGE GUIDELINES:**

- 1) Authorized personnel only in the chemical storage area.
- 2) No Smoking, eating or open flames in storage area.
- 3) Proper signage will be in clear view and building will be locked at all times.
- 4) Keep an accurate inventory of chemical in storage
- 5) Store all herbicides in the original labeled containers and ensure labels remain legible while in storage.
- 6) Keep the storage area clean and free of obstacles and hazardous materials such as empty boxes and garbage.
- 7) Always follow special storage instructions listed on herbicide labels.
- 8) If leaks are found, transfer the contents of the leaking vessel to another properly labeled container.
- 9) All herbicides will be stored in vehicles where they will not expose the driver or personal protective equipment to spills in an accident.
- 10) Ensure that all emergency numbers are posted in a conspicuous place for easy referral.
- 11) Maintain current Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in the storage facility and spray trucks.
- 12) The cleanup procedure should be carried out from the upwind side of the spill.

- 13) Dikes must be constructed to prevent pesticides from entering any body of water, including entering through sewers and drainage ditches.
- 14) If spills accrue in buildings ventilation fans shall be turned on for an appropriate amount of time prior to entering the building.

