

OPERATION: BRUSH CONTROL

Operation: Brush Control is the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's annual effort to control roadside brush and overhanging tree branches that could obstruct motorists' vision, create drainage obstacles, or cause snow and icing problems if left unchecked.

For more information

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission will be happy to answer any further questions you may have about brush control. Feel free to call us or to visit our offices between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All programs, activities and services are provided equally without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or handicap.



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BRUSH CONTROL

**Removing
Roadside Hazards
to Preserve
Roadway Safety**



How is the program conducted?

The Road Commission uses an integrated approach to control roadside brush and branches using:

- ◆ Hand labor
- ◆ Mechanical means
- ◆ Herbicides

Hand clearing and mowing are expensive and cannot be used safely in all areas. Specially trained, licensed and experienced professionals selectively apply the herbicides to specific vegetation that could create a driving hazard. This spot spraying along local unplatted and primary roads is done on a rotating basis in one-third of the county late each summer. The operation is not a continuous broadcast spray—only those roadside areas where existing brush and limbs create safety hazards are sprayed.

How safe are the herbicides?

The Road Commission applies Krenite S, a chemical approved by both the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Toxicologic studies of both long-term effects and short-term, high-level exposures have shown Krenite S to be safe—in fact, in terms of lethal dosage, safer even than substances like caffeine and aspirin. A copy of the material safety data sheet and the product specimen label for Krenite S are available at the Road Commission's offices.

Do I have a choice regarding this spraying?

Yes! If you or another resident of your home is chemical-sensitive, or if you simply prefer not to have your property sprayed, you have the right to not have the vegetation treated by the Road Commission. To invoke this option, however, you must properly clear your roadside of undesirable brush and low tree limbs before July 31. You must also obtain a "No Spray Permit" from the Road Commission office, its website, or your township office. The completed form must be returned by June 30. In turn, the Road Commission will hand-deliver a sign to your location for you to post on your property to signal that you are taking responsibility for your own roadside frontage.

Does the Road Commission really want property owners to assume responsibility for their own property?

The Road Commission considers roadside maintenance a team effort and is pleased to have property owners as partners in this vital safety program. That's why the Road Commission is eager to accommodate people who prefer to handle brush control themselves. This kind of joint effort benefits both the Road Commission and the property owners.

How do I know if my area is targeted for spraying this year?

Only about one-third of the county is sprayed annually, so a given area will only be sprayed once every three years. To learn whether your area is on this year's schedule, please call the Road Commission office.