

<b>POLICY NO:</b>	PW 021
<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	AIRCRAFT STRIPS AND USE OF ROADS
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	PUBLIC WORKS
<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	50-08-08 (August 19, 2008)
<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	June 16, 2015

**Policy:**

The County of Vermilion River deems it appropriate to establish parameters for aircraft operators if they are using County roads as an airstrip in order to provide for the safety of other users of this road infrastructure because they recognize:

1. the recreational, and business use of aircraft by ratepayers and commercial operators in the County and
2. spraying services provide a benefit to the agriculture, forestry and other industries and
3. that the use of registered or private airstrips may not always be feasible.

**Background:**

1. Transport Canada enforces the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARS) which does not specifically restrict aircraft use of local roads for an airstrip. Excerpt from the CARS regulation is attached for reference.
2. Alberta Highway Traffic Act – attached is the current Regulation with restrictions and how they manage permission to us the provincial numbered highways. Note that the municipal authority must pass a bylaw to close your roads for such an event. If aircraft are interfering with traffic, your policing agency could then lay appropriate charges under the Traffic Act.
3. A municipality can make a bylaw to regulate Aircraft use of the roads as per the MGA 18 delegates the direction, control and management of all roads to the municipality. The concern from the travelling public is usually with safety; the MGA section 3 includes safety as a main purpose of a municipality. Liability lays with a municipality if they do not regulate this usage requiring aircraft to use due diligence

**Guidelines:**

1. The County accepts that this policy and guidelines are for non-emergency situations.
2. The aircraft operator is to carefully evaluate all factors so as to not endanger the travelling public on the road but some examples of items to be considered are:

- a. Use a road that provides at least 2000 meters of visibility
  - b. Suitability of the road surface - is relatively flat / smooth
  - c. The time of operation and visibility conditions
  - d. The height of any buildings, brush, towers or power lines etc.
3. Spraying aircraft are encouraged to utilize registered airstrips or other private airstrips if they can obtain permission when ever they are within 5 miles proximately of the land being sprayed – if this distance is exceeded then local roads can be used for operations provided they have:
  - a. Two flag persons at both ends of any road/s being used for landing, taxiing or takeoff
  - b. Have personnel who are trained in all appropriate safety procedures
  - c. Contacted residents in an area they are spraying in