

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-29 **Effective:** October 25, 2013

Subject: Vegetation Management on State Highways

References: Commission Action Dated November 30, 1999

Purpose: Provide Guidance on Management of Vegetation on State Highways

This Directive Applies to: Maintenance

All activities associated with the management of vegetation on highway rights-of-way will be performed in accordance with the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) manual entitled "SCDOT Vegetation Management Guidelines," latest edition. This manual establishes limits for roadside vegetation management activities performed by SCDOT and by non-SCDOT entities. These guidelines are updated as necessary to comply with current laws that affect vegetation management on state highway rights-of-way.

The resident maintenance engineer shall ensure SCDOT vegetation management guidelines are reviewed routinely with all employees involved with vegetation management operations (including those inspecting work performed under contract or work performed by non-SCDOT entities). Records documenting this training shall be kept in each maintenance office and are subject to review by the Maintenance Quality Management Team.

It is the intent of SCDOT to manage the vegetation within its rights-of-way in the most efficient means possible without sacrificing the safety of employees or the traveling public. Vegetation management activities will be performed in accordance with current law. Whenever possible, roadside vegetation management will be conducted to meet the wants and desires of the local community, as long as this does not violate current law, pose an undue economic hardship on the Department, or detrimentally affect safety.

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