

From The Chair

Have you noticed the links at the lower left corner of Page 2?

1. The Landscape Vendor Service Provider list provides a homeowner which companies which have been trained in FIREWISE, USA best practices for a Firewise landscape.
2. Home Ignition Zone Evaluation is a handy link to the online request for an evaluation by a trained Sun City evaluator to inspect the outside of the homeowner's house and yard.
3. Current Publications has several years of articles for a reader to study.
4. The 2023 Town Hall video can be watched before the Sun City Firewise Town Hall on Tuesday, Oct 6th, 9:30, in the Social Center Ballroom.
5. The Annual Renewal Documents link to the annual renewal documents of the work by the Sun City Firewise Group to maintain Sun City as a Firewise USA National Recognized Community for sixteen years.
6. Meeting Notes are the documents reviewing what happened at our most recent meetings.

You may see our website at the first link in this printed list or go to the Firewise icon, Sun City inside the NRO section of the Sun City website.

Another way is the NRO Bulletin email sent to Sun City residents.
Mark Marino
Firewise Group Chair

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

It's Summertime...

And the heat and humidity have been in overdrive. Thank you for the rain we've gotten, but with the rain comes more weeds and growth of vegetation. What does that mean for you? Be sure to keep the flowerbeds weeded and at least 6 inches away from your foundations and watch those limbs over your roofs and scrapping your homes. Also check around your porches to see if you have any electrical cords that need attention. With the Crew on vacation until September, we're giving our own yards a bit more attention, won't you join us doing this around your home?

Petra Garen
Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator

August

- August 15 - New Resident Orientation, 8:30a, SCB
- August 15 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00p, Mesquite Room
- August 28 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

September

- September 19 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00p, Mesquite Room
- September 25 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

Results of the May 3 Preparedness Day Exercise

1. The Firewise Group

The Firewise Group was formed in 2009 and approved by the Board of Directors. Sun City Texas is a recognized Firewise Community with Firewise USA, a part of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In your opinion:

What is Firewise?

Firewise is community safety and education, people clearing brush to help stop wildfires, educate, home protection, fire prevention and making the community aware of wildfires

What do you want to know about the Firewise Group?

Volunteering - how do you volunteer for Firewise?

Question - What we can and can't do in certain areas of the common areas/

Insurance

How do you get insurance in Sun City?

Discounts - most companies won't give a discount. USAA is the only company giving a discount.

Insurance concerns

We were denied on a greenbelt

How does insurance protect us

We couldn't get insurance

How to get more insurance

What does the Firewise Group do in Sun City?

Home inspection

Brush clearing

Educates the community for keeping it safe

Has recommendations about what to plant around the home

Maintains the data for Firewise certification

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

Page 1

- July-August Calendar
- From the Chair
- Clearing Crew News
- Results of the May 3 Preparedness Day Exercise

Page 2

- Firewise Group Notes
- Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers
- Partner's Corner
- August Holidays

Our Partners



Click logo for information!

The Trumpet is published monthly except January. If you have information to share, please send it to ole7734@suddenlink.net by the 28th of each month.

Results of the May 3 Preparedness Day Exercise

(continued)

Have you considered volunteering for the Firewise Group or if you currently volunteer, increasing your commitment?

Comments included: to be determined if I will volunteer, something to think about and yes, I have considered increasing from a current volunteer

2. Communicating with Residents

Sun City has over 9,000 homes and over 16,000 residents. An important part of the program is communicating information to the residents. How can the Firewise Group better:

Communicate with the residents?

Firewise could use the CA Communicator, NRO Bulletin and Sun Rays to advertise more for information and events. Note: all event information is sent to each for 2 listing, their limit.

NRO Block Captains - Firewise and NRO created the Firewise Neighborhood Partner (Partner) Program in 2023. Currently, 32 neighborhoods have a partner. Firewise is looking for more Partners.

Advertise trumpet more - The Firewise Trumpet is an internal newsletter designed to keep volunteers up to date and provide ideas and information for the Firewise volunteers.

NRO neighborhood reps - Firewise volunteers are encouraged to work with their neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Firewise Partners Program is still developing. Each neighborhood has their own structure that a Partner can best work with.

Advertise trumpet more - The Firewise Trumpet is an internal newsletter designed to keep volunteers up to date and provide ideas and information for the Firewise volunteers.

Advertise at chartered club fair - The Firewise Group is not a Chartered Club. We are a subcommittee of the Emergency Management Committee. We participate in the New Resident Orientation event in February, May, August and November.

What communication methods would be best?

Appear at neighborhood rep meeting - Firewise needs to provide updates at NRO meetings but having

someone to provide updates is limited.

Promote visiting with neighborhoods, block captains, NRO neighborhood reps. Firewise volunteers are encouraged to work with their neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Firewise Partners Program is still developing. Each neighborhood has their own structure that a Partner can best work with.

Is there a hermit problem since pandemic - Yes! It exists not only with individual residents, but in some of the organizations in Sun City. Participation by Firewise volunteers in meetings and events has been down.

Post Firewise brochure by trail head signs - Question - Will the CA and the Hiking Club agree? First concern - is there space on the posts to hold materials? Second concern - hikers take a document, read as they walk, accidentally drop it or decide they aren't interested and fail to dispose of it properly. Who picks up the trash?

What information do you feel should be available?

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Evaluation program

New residents receive a card promoting the HIZ and (continued on page 3)

Firewise Group Meeting Notes

The July 24 Firewise Group Meeting was attended by 10 members and no liaisons.

The items covered were:

- * Update on the October 8 Town Hall
- * The table cover for displays will be replaced
- * Firewise signs for entrances discussed
- * Firewise Group Operating Procedures, with corrections approved

Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the [web site](#).

The next Firewise Group meeting will be August 28, 2024 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

Firewise Partners Corner

What is a Home Ignition Zone Evaluation?

A Home Ignition Zone Evaluation (HIZ) is requested on the Firewise Group website. It is assigned to one or more evaluators who will schedule, with the home owner, a time. The Evaluator will survey the outside of the house and property to the property line. A time to present and discuss the written report will be scheduled. The report will be discussed with the homeowner.

All information is confidential between the homeowner and the Evaluator(s).

August Holidays

August 18
National Fajita Day

August 21
National Senior Citizens Day

August 30
National Beach Day

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

As of:	6/26	7/24
Received	1,145	1,147
Completed	1,144	1,146
New requests	1	2
Open	1	1

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications](#)

[Home Ignition Zone Evaluation](#)

[Annual Renewal Documents](#)

[2023 Town Hall video](#)

[Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

Upcoming Events

August 15, 2024, Thursday - Community: Welcome Day & Club Expo, 8:30a-9:15a, SCB

October 8, 2024, Tuesday, 9:30a, Firewise Town Hall, SCB

October 25, Friday - Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, 9:00a-12:00p, Andice Room

Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - Mark Marino

Vice-Chair - Pete Mollidor

Recorder - Cheryl Taylor

Webmaster - Melissa Lane

HIZ Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson

Results of the May 3 Preparedness Day Exercise

(continued)

the Clearing Crew in the new resident package from the NRO. The same card is passed out at the New Resident Orientation. Periodically, articles are sent to the CA Communicator, NRO Bulletin and Sun Rays.

Do insurance companies promote Firewise?

USAA promotes the Firewise program and offers their policy holders a small discount. Some insurance companies promote Firewise.

Coordinate/setup Firewise booth at concerts, Cowan Pavilion, Mulligans, etc.

The venues mentioned have some limitations. Permission, space, wind, and staffing come to mind. The current places the booth is used are the New Residents Orientation, Firewise and other events. Neighborhood opportunities often have a time limit and there may not be Firewise volunteers to staff it.

3. Common Areas

Homes bordering common areas are prohibited from changing or managing the common areas behind their homes. The areas are defined as Maintenance: Level III Cultivated Texas Landscape and Maintenance Level IV: Native Texas Landscape. The *Maintenance of Community Association Grounds Policy* document provides information about the what, when, and how these areas will be managed.

How much do you know about the Maintenance Levels?

There is confusion about the maintenance levels. See page 4 for examples. The following is a brief explanation:

Level 1 - highly maintained areas along boulevards and around amenities.

Level 2 - a natural area between houses in the older part of Sun City. In newer areas, this area is a Level 3 area. Where Level 2 exists, mowing is monthly as needed.

Level 3 - This level is the mowed fuel break behind homes on common areas. It can be up to 30 feet wide depending the natural area size and topography. The mowing is done starting about mid-June and October.

Level 4 - Natural areas will have limited maintenance, primarily for safety and special circumstances. Residents should not enter this area.

Special Landscape Zones - Generally associated with commercial or amenity areas, typically include a combination of the above Levels of Maintenance and responsibility.

Question or concerns? - contact Carlton Mathis, Common Area & Irrigation Superintendent.

Would you know where to find the information?

The CA web site has the primary information. The web site path is to select Community Association Information, then Documents and then select *Maintenance of Community Association Grounds Policy* document.

A source about policy is the Property & Grounds (P&G) Committee. Check their web site by selecting Community Association Information, then select Property & Grounds Committee on the right.

The Firewise Web site also has some information. A program is available for homeowners to manage the Level 3 area behind the home called a strip lease.

Are you aware of this program and how to apply?

The Strip Lease Program is managed by the P&G Committee. It allows for a resident to lease the Level 3 behind their property. Contact the P&G Committee for more information.

4. Removing vegetation

This section proved difficult to analysis. The topic will be revised and included with other topics and used in a similar event later.

5. Home Ignition Zone Evaluations

The Firewise Group provides a FREE Home Ignition Zone Evaluation by request for resident's homes.

What do you know about:

What is a Home Ignition Zone?

The home ignition Zone is divided into specific zones. For Sun City, the Immediate Zone is the structure and up to 5 feet out. Next is the Intermediate zone up to 30 feet or the property line.

The service?

The HIZ evaluation is designed for Sun City homes. It provides an evaluation of a property to determine if and where wind blown embers from a wildfire may ignite the home. The report provides the results and recommendations for the property owner. It is confidential.

How to request it?

The HIZ can be requested on the Firewise web site. Complete the form and you will be assigned an Evaluator.

have you had one done?

Participant indicated about 50% have had a HIZ performed.

6. Finding Firewise Group Information

The Firewise Group has two web sites: on the Sun City Web site and a public site. Have you:

visited the Sun City site?

Some had visited the Sun City web site. The Sun City site is available by logging in and selecting Community Association Information. Then select EMC-Firewise Subcommittee on the right.

visited the public site?

To access the public web site on a computer, open the Sun City web site. Select 'About Us' in the top center. Select Firewise in the left column. Select the item of your choice. The public web site is not available on a mobile phone.

To access the web site you must log in to the site and follow the above directions.

on either site, what do you want to find?

The following were listed: calendar, meeting notes, knowledge, plant recommendations, trim
(continued on page 4)

Results of the May 3 Preparedness Day Exercise

(continued)

recommendations, registration, referral place & studies, national program & studies, how to prepare for volunteering, and plants & knowledge

What special requirements are needed to volunteer?

The only qualification is a desire to help make Sun City a Firewise Community!

Responses: able to navigate terrain, boots (not on site), only do what's needed, Firewise thru cutting, logging (reviews/inspection), training/directions - what to cut, mobility, dedication, willingness, physical ability, health is not a constant, proper attire - gloves, long pants, shirts, boots, SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, know plants, resident & internet (all posts of opportunities), and improve the community.

Examples of the Maintenance Levels



An example of a Maintenance Level 1.



An example of a Maintenance Level 2.



An example of a Maintenance Levels 3 and 4.