

### From The Chair

I'm sitting in the SUN CITY lobby when told there will be a FIRE ALARM test for this building. OK-I think -walk out of this building as a practice fire drill.

Ask a representative of the National Fire Prevention Association(NFPA). You will be told:

"Firefighters do everything possible to rescue you if you're trapped inside a burning building. But it's up to you to get out first." Have a meet up spot outside your home. Don't go back inside the home. Call the fire department from a safe place.

Time is your biggest enemy in a fire. A docu-film by the U.S. Fire Administration displays a dropped match in a wastebasket making an out of control fire in 30-seconds. Other flammable items get on fire. Within 2-minutes, the entire room explodes in flames. FLASHOVER is the word used to describe this. The home is seen ablaze in film at 5-minutes. Experts will say you have two minutes to get to the outside as the smoke detector goes off two-minutes after the fire starts. We may remember as kids: drop to the floor and roll when we were in a classroom lesson. You want to crawl on the floor getting out of a room in flames.

Your survival at the scene is hampered by the fast rising vapors from the burning toxic materials. Temperatures rise to a very high value from the floor to ceiling. These two actions are what Flashover means.

Knowing facts about fires indoors and evacuation drills is smart. More information [here](#)

Mark Marino  
 Firewise Group Chair

### In This Issue:

#### Page 1

- July-August Calendar
- From the Chair
- Clearing Crew News
- Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

#### Page 2

- Firewise Group Notes
- Partner's Corner
- Residents are Important to the Firewise Effort
- July Holidays

### Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

As of:	5/22	6/26
Received	1,144	1,145
Completed	1,143	1,144
New requests	2	1
Open	1	1

### July

- July 18 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00p, Mesquite Room
- July 24 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

### August

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

### Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

Quick update on our clearing efforts this past month. We've been on a special project assisting the CA Firewise Representative by doing fire mitigation off Sun City Blvd, near the SC Horticulture Garden.



The Crew was motivated and managed to work through the humidity and heat- Many thanks to them for that. They removed- downed, dead trees and limbs and trash picked up. The piles left have already been chipped and spread out.

So now the Crew is on a much deserved "Siesta" and will be back at it in September.

Remember to do your "Firewise" part around your own homes, and have those hoses hooked up for emergencies.

Stay Safe and stay **Firewise**.

Petra Garen  
 Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



### Our Partners



Click logo for information!

Please promote the Home Ignition Zone Evaluation!

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

## Residents are Important to the Firewise Effort

Sun City Texas is in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)? A WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels and developed land. The latter could be a neighboring subdivision or public area.

### EMBERS!

Research has shown over 80% of structures lost in wildfires are the result of ember ignition. The remaining are the result of the wildfire overwhelming and igniting them.

During wildfires, fire protection is limited. What often happens, one structure ignites, and the wind pushes the flames to the next structure, igniting it.

What about embers igniting Sun City Texas homes? Our homes are relatively fire resistant. The outside materials are fire resistant (stucco, brick, masonry, cement board). The main concerns are exposed wood, gutters, landscape material, and outside improvements. The potential for embers to ignite homes is the concern.

So, what does all this mean? The primary factor is fires originating up to two miles outside Sun City. Included are subdivisions adjoining Sun City that have large lots with trees with grass. This means there is the potential for a wildfire within two miles a Sun City house to produce embers that could ignite house. Incidentally, there have been two small vegetation fires in Sun City in the past 20 years. Neither created a threat to houses.

### WHAT DOES SUN CITY TEXAS DO?

Sun City has been proactive in reducing the potential for wildfires. The Level 3 common Area fuel breaks are mowed twice each year is the most obvious. The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew helps maintain the fuel breaks.

#### Level 3 Mowed Fuel Breaks

A fuel break is an area where the vegetation (fuels) is reduced in height to limit the size of a fire. Mowing the vegetation reduces the height of fuel and deposits it on the stubble. The fuel breaks are up to 30 feet wide depending on the common area size and topography. Mowing provides reduced fuel (vegetation) height which reduces the flame size and can slow the fire speed. This is particularly important during dormancy and drought.

#### July Holidays

2 - National Wildland Firefighter Day	4 - Independence Day
	7 - World Chocolate Day

### 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 - New Resident Orientation, 8:30a-9:15a, SCB  
October 6, 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

The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew is a part of the Firewise Group that assists the Community Association in maintaining the Level 3 fuel breaks and other areas. They meet weekly for two hours, weather permitting, to remove small Ashe juniper trees (cedar) and other materials that reduce the mowing process. They also assist in other areas when requested.

#### Berry and Cowan Creeks

Berry and Cowan Creeks are managed to reduce the flooding potential by removing Ashe juniper (cedar), low hanging limbs, downed material, and trash. The process also reduces the potential of a grass fire igniting treetops.

### RESIDENTS ROLE

The most important role a resident has is to maintain and protect their and their neighbor's property by understanding what the potential is for their home to be ignited by embers. A Home Ignition Zone Evaluation is a good way to start! It is conducted by trained resident evaluators. It is FREE and confidential between you and the evaluators only.

The Sun City Community and the Firewise Group needs YOUR help to the reduce the wildfire hazard in Su City!



### Firewise Group Meeting Notes

\* The June 26 Firewise Group Meeting was cancelled

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

The next Firewise Group meeting will be July 24, 2024 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

### Partners Corner

*Maintaining the Home 0-5 feet from the foundation*

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves and debris.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles to prevent ember penetration.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents. Vents should have 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers penetration.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Move any flammable material away from exterior walls – leaves, debris, flammable furniture, and anything that can burn.