

# FIREWISE TRUMPET



**Sun City Texas**  
**Firewise Group**

Volume 8

December 2021

Number 11

**Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks**

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## Firewise Group Notes

The December 1 Firewise Group Meeting included 8 members and 1 liaison.

The following were discussed:

- \* Brian Richard, EMC is planning an emergency/evacuation drill for next year.
- \* Landscape Vendor Training will be January 21, 2022
- \* Discussion concerning the HIZ Evaluation status.
- \* Volunteer Clearing Crew report on page 2.
- \* Election of officers will be at the February meeting.

Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2022 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks.

**Merry Christmas!**

**Happy Hannukah!**

**Happy New Year!**

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications/Renewal Documents](#)

[Town Hall videos](#)

## December

December 1, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## January

January 20, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room

January 26, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

January xx, Landscape Vendor Training, 2:00 pm, Xxxxx

## February

February 17, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room

February 23, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

Month ending	10/27	12/1
Received	1,051	1,051
New requests	7	7
Completed	998	998
Open	53	53

## From The Chair

### DECK THE HALLS, SAFELY

The holiday season is approaching, so, let's celebrate in a healthful and safe way. When purchasing new holiday decorations, look for the tag or label stating that the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approves it. Even when using UL approved electrical decorations, avoid overloading electrical outlets. Also, ensure that there are no faulty wires – these are the most common causes of residential holiday fires.

If a real tree is being used, give the needles a "tug test" by pulling firmly on the needles. If a significant number of needles come off in your hand, choose another tree. A healthy tree will not shed its needles, the needles should not feel brittle, but (continued on page 2)

## Our Partners



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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## Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - David Hubbell

Vice-Chair - Doug Lane

Recorder - Judy Whitmore

HIZ Coordinator - Ron Thompson

Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson

Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch

Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

**From The Chair** (continued from Page 1)  
but instead seem “soft” to the touch. There is a greater fire risk with natural trees as opposed to artificial ones. Keeping the tree moist is the best way to prevent it from catching fire.

If the tree is pre-cut, it’s important to make a new cut across the bottom of the trunk, removing one to two inches off the bottom. This will ensure the tree is capable of absorbing water. Tip: most real trees will absorb roughly one quart of water for each inch of its diameter, so be sure to top off your stand daily.

Of all residential holiday fires, one in six occur because of a heat source kept too close to the tree. If an electric space heater is used anywhere in the home, be sure it features an automatic shut-off should it be tipped over or forgotten about.

**HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

David Hubbell, Firewise Group Chair



### **2021 Wildfire Risk Reduction Investment Data**

As of October 31, 2021, there are 8,425 homes with an estimated population of 15,585 residents.

Firewise Town Hall was held October 5.

Participated in two New Resident Orientation.  
Landscape Vendor Company Training

The Firewise Group held the annual session on January 31. The training included 4 companies with 8 individuals. Currently there are 15 companies on the list.

Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training was held October 29 with 4 new Evaluators and 8 Evaluators for Continuing Education attending.

The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew held 19 workdays with the equivalent to just over 14 weeks of time.

#### **Volunteer Time**

Firewise volunteers provided 1,693 hours valued at \$47,065.

Home Ignition Zone Evaluations accounted for 84 hours valued at \$2,335

Volunteer Clearing Crew provided 563 hours valued at \$15,651.

Total Volunteer input was 2,275 hours valued at \$65,052.

Sun City Texas Community Association Staff Clearing Crew maintained Firewise fuel breaks valued at \$271,814.

Residents who maintained the property contributed time and payments valued at \$6,789,673.

The 2021 wildfire risk reduction investment contributed by volunteers, homeowners, and Sun City Texas Community Association was \$7,126,539.

### **Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News**

Although we had a rough start this year, we managed to help keep neighborhoods and common areas safer with our work.

We started off the year and then had to stop due to Covid and the ice storms. Once we received “the green light”, we continued clearing (within the CA guidelines, of course). After the ice storm the CA had so much work to do that, we were able to assist them by removing tree limbs in some of our common areas. Then we continued with our work clearing in our level 3 areas, as well as clearing some drainage areas.

I’d like to take a moment to brag on the great volunteers who take the time to volunteer to help keep make our community “Firewise Safe” on Tuesday mornings. They do outstanding work and have a great time- Many, many thanks to them!

Remember you can help too by keeping the perimeter of your home safe and remove debris and fire fuel. Keep an eye out on those holiday decorations this time of year- they could become a fire hazard.

Happy Holiday Season wishes to you from all the “Crew”, and we look forward to continuing to volunteer next year.

Stay Safe!

Petra Garren

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator



### **2022 Firewise Dates**

**Education/Training Work Group** (1-3 pm, Mesquite Room)

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November no meeting, December 7

**Firewise Group** (1-3 pm, Mesquite Room)

January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November no meeting, December 7

#### **Events**

January 21, Landscape Vendor Training (CCF, 2-4pm)

May 6, Wildfire Preparedness Day (CCP, 8am -1pm)

October 4, Town Hall (SCB, 9-10:30am)

October 28, Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training (Mesquite, 8am-12pm)

New Resident Orientation– February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17 (SCB, 8:30-9:15)