

# FIREWISE TRUMPET

Volume 9

March 2022

Number 2



**Sun City Texas**  
**Firewise Group**  
**Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks**

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## Firewise Group Notes

The February 23 Firewise Group Meeting included 7 members, 2 liaisons and 1 visitor.

The following were discussed:

- \* The EMC Town Hall on March 25<sup>th</sup> will focus on the Sun City Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
  - \* Firewise Wildfire Preparedness Day will be May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - \* Doug Lane is the new HIZ Coordinator and a revised procedure is being developed.
  - \* Dividing Sun City into 5 communities has begun.
  - \* Elections were held (see bottom of next column).
  - \* Volunteer Clearing Crew report on page 2.
- Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2022 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks.

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)  
[Meeting Notes](#)  
[Current Publications/Renewal Documents](#)  
[Town Hall videos](#)



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Click logo for information!

## March

March 17, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room  
March 23, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## April

April 21, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room  
April 27, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>Month ending</u>	<u>2/23</u>
Received	1,058
Completed	1,037
New requests	3
Open	20

## From The Chair

“Good bye”, “Good Luck”, “You’ll be missed”, etc. Honestly, these were words that I thought I might hear in the recent past. However, as luck, fate, destiny or karma worked against the idea that I would hear these words. But enough of the pity party. I will be Chairing the Firewise Group again this year. I would like to thank Petra Garren for volunteering to be the Vice Chair, and Judy Whitmore for volunteering to be the recorder for the next year.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Petra Garren, Paul Ohlenbusch and Dan Dodson for their support, patience and guidance that they have given me over the past year. Also, thanks to the rest of the Firewise Group for their support as well. I hope that their understanding will continue through this year.

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## Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - David Hubbell  
Vice-Chair - Petra Garren  
Recorder - Judy Whitmore  
HIZ Coordinator - Doug Lane  
Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson  
Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch  
Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

## Firewise Landscape Management

Here are some guidelines for Sun City landscapes.

**Immediate zone** - The zone includes the house and the area 0-5' from the exterior of the home.

- Science tells us this is the most important zone is the most vulnerable to embers.
- **START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF** then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.
- Keep roofs and gutters clear of dead leaves and debris that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles to prevent ember penetration.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Maintain a 6-12 inch clearance between the house and shrubs and plants if possible.
- Maintain 4-6 inch clearance below shrubs if possible.

**Intermediate Zone** - This zone is the area from 5' to the property line.

- Fuel breaks can be driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns grasses mowed to the appropriate height and watered.
- Prune trees up to six feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- If planting a new tree, plant it to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than five feet to the edge of the house.

Adapted from Firewise USA materials.

## Firewise Preparedness Day

Firewise Preparedness Day will be May 6. The goal is to clear an area near Cowan Creek Pavilion of small junipers, dead fall and trash. Plan to come out and help!

## 2022 Major Firewise Events

New Resident Orientation

May 19, 8:30, SCB

August 18, 8:30, SCB

November 17, 8:30, SCB

Firewise Wildfire Preparedness Day

May 6, 9:00 am, CCP

Firewise Town Hall

October 5, 9:30 am, SCB

Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training

October 28, 9:00 am, Mesquite Room

## From The Chair (continued from Page 1)

I have some thoughts about goals for the upcoming year. My thoughts are to give Sun City residents more information about the Firewise Group and in so doing, increase the membership. I am open for suggestions on how to do so.

Also, Paul and Dan probably know better than 90% of all that goes on with the Firewise events, the rest of us need to learn what they know. Not that I want anything to happen to either of them, but if something did, the Firewise Group would pretty much come to a standstill. I would like to develop an information transfer from the more knowledgeable people to others less knowledgeable.

David Hubbell  
Firewise Group Chair

## Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

Don't be fooled by the serious look of this crew- this is a fun and hardworking crew! They're always happy completing work in the areas behind our residents' homes because they know it makes it safer for the whole community.

Remember you can help by managing the area around your immediate home. Remove dead limbs, replace dead foliage, and stay "Aware".

Petra Garren

Volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



The Firewise Clearing Crew showing off their completed work.

