

Being Firewise Around Your Home

Sun City Texas has been a Recognized Firewise Community since 2009. Firewise is a voluntary program administered in Texas through the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Firewise approach encourages homeowners to help protect people, their property, and nearby natural resources from falling embers generated by nearby wildfires or house fires.



Wildfires or house fires produce embers that may fall on your property and start a fire.

As a Firewise Community, we request residents to voluntarily maintain their home and landscape based on Firewise guidelines and landscaping principles. The Firewise Group cooperates with the Georgetown Fire Department and Texas A&M Forest Service to insure the guidelines and principles are appropriate and safe.

What Does Firewise Do?

Firewise is a two part program. First, each resident can reduce the risk of embers starting a fire on their property even if living in a maintained home. We don't want homes to contribute to the spread of a wildfire.

Second, the Firewise Group, together with the Property and Grounds and Wildlife Management Committees advise the Community Association Board of Directors and Staff on managing the common or green space areas. Included is the removal or pruning of Ashe juniper (cedar) and other vegetation to reduce the intensity of wildfires, to reduce the flooding potential, and to improve wildlife habitat.

How Can You Help?

When landscaping initially or replacing shrubbery, try to choose plants with many of these characteristics:

- ! material/litter/debris within or below
- ! Are non-resinous or have low oil content
- ! Have open, loose branching
- ! Are drought resistant
- ! Hold high moisture content in their leaves
- ! Are easy to maintain and prune
- ! Native plants
- ! Require low water use

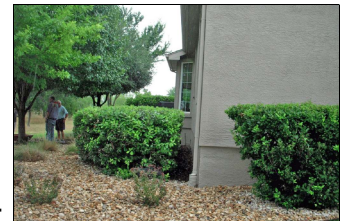
Upright rosemary, pampas grass, yaupon holly and similar plants are ignitable and should be planted at least 5 feet from the house and preferably not under windows. A Firewise Plant Guide is available on the Firewise web page.



Check List

Here is a checklist of some of the things needed to create a Firewise residence:

- ◇ House numbers should be visible.
- ◇ Keep the hedges and other plants trimmed. Shrubs should have 6-12 inch clearance from the wall and have 4-6 inches above mulch.
- ◇ Keep gutters clear of leaf litter and debris.
- ◇ Prune tree branches over the roof so the lowest one is at least 4 feet above the roof if possible.
- ◇ Keep a garden hose by each outdoor faucet.
- ◇ Mow the lawn regularly.
- ◇ **DO NOT** take grass clippings or branches from your yard and dispose of them in common areas.



- ! Have little accumulation of dead

- ◇ Trellises are not the best idea because they can provide a “ladder” for fire to reach the eaves. If you have trellises, keep the vines below half the distance to the eaves. Metal trellises are preferred.



With your help, we can all do our part to maintain Sun City as a recognized Firewise Community making each of us safer.

Home Ignition Zone Evaluation

Request a Firewise Home Ignition Zone Evaluation if you need advice about how safe your house is. Go to the Firewise web site or at the Social Center Monitor Desk.

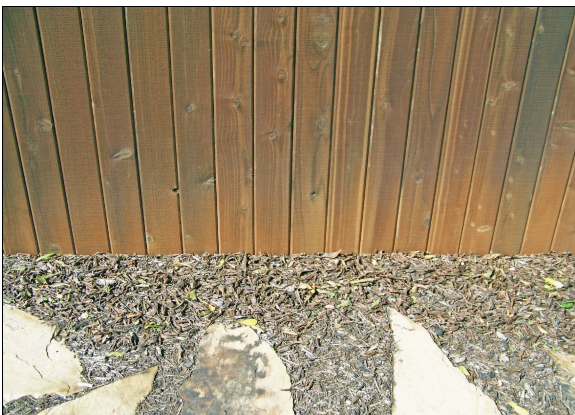
Sign up to volunteer for Firewise on the Firewise web site or at the Social Center Monitor Desk.

Landscaper Services

The Firewise Group provides training for commercial landscape service vendors. A list of trained companies is available in the Vendor Notebook at the Monitor Desk in the Social Center and Cowan Creek Amenity Center and on the Firewise website



If possible, keep tree limbs 4 feet or more above the roof.



Keep leaves and other debris away from all wood surfaces and outdoor furniture around the house.

To reach the Sun City Texas Firewise web site go to www.sctexas.org. Do Not Log In. Click on “About Us” top center, scroll down on left and click on Firewise, and then select “Home Ignition Zone.” Complete the form and submit.



Gutters should be cleaned of leaves and debris regularly.