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Firewise Group Notes

The June 23 Firewise Group Meeting included 5 members.

The following were discussed:

- * The initial HIZ Evaluators results were reviewed.
- * The CA Liaison provided an email update of L3 and L4 work
- * Petra reported on the Clearing Crew activities. See Page 2 for details.
- * A discussion of of the Group's Operating Procedures was moved to the July meeting. Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for July 28, 1 pm in the Mesquite Room, 301 Del Webb Blvd.

Upcoming Events

New Resident Orientation, August 19, 8:45 am, SCB

Firewise Town Hall, October 5, 9:30 am, SCB
Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, October 29, 9:00 am.

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

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

Our Partners



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July

July 15, Education Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room
July 28 Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

August

August 19, Education Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room
August 25, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>Month ending</u>	<u>5/26</u>	<u>6/23</u>
Received	1,042	1,043
New requests	2	1
Completed	991	992
Open	51	50

From The Chair

Be cautious when doing yard work. Snakes may be lurking in the bushes, so use particular care while gardening and do not reach into or under bushes or brush just with your hands. Use some type of garden tool, such as a rake or shovel.

There are new or recently born fawns around. Please take care when doing yard work and ensure that fawns are not hiding in the landscape when doing yard work. This will reduce accidental injuries on the fawns. Also, if the mama doe feels that the fawn is potentially in harm's way, she will attack to protect her baby.

The CA reports most storm-related requests have been addressed in Level 3 areas and mowing is underway. All remaining Level 4 requests are tentatively scheduled for the Fall, following the completion of the second round of mowing and any creek concerns.

David Hubbell, Firewise Group Chair

Firewise Group Leadership

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

The Drought Monitor Web Site

Drought and wildfire have been a combination for years. Texas had the largest number and acres of wildfires in 2011. Three months ago Texas was about 90% drought (Figure 1). Currently, Texas is about 20% drought mainly along the western side and the Rio Grande River (Figure 2). Thankfully, a rainy April, May and June has changed that.

The Drought Monitor is based on data from climatologically observed precipitation, soil moisture, agricultural crop conditions, and how much water is stored in snow, flow rate of moving water, water in reservoirs, and groundwater levels. New information is released every Thursday.

There are five levels used. The lowest is abnormally dry which are areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought. The other levels of drought are moderate, severe, extreme and exceptional drought.

To follow the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>. Click on Texas, and then on Texas again. There are options to compare maps over time and more. As an example, click on maps and then animations. On the right side click 12 weeks to see how the drought status has changed.

What is the future? According to the Climate Prediction Center, summer should have average precipitation and hot. The outlook for the fall and winter is dry.

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

Although the Firewise Clearing Crew is now on its "Summer Siesta" break, we will start back up at the beginning of September. A few things to share with you to help prevent and contain any possible fires around your home:

- * Keep your water hose hooked up to the water line for a quick response to put out a fire. Both in the front and back of your home.
- * Keep the weeds cut along and under your fence if you have one installed. This removes the dry and dead foliage for fire fuel.
- * And please do not place yard waste or other trash in the area behind your property line. Again, this removes the fuel for any potential fires.

Have a safe and wonderful summer visiting family and friends. We'll see you in the fall.

Petra Garren, Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator

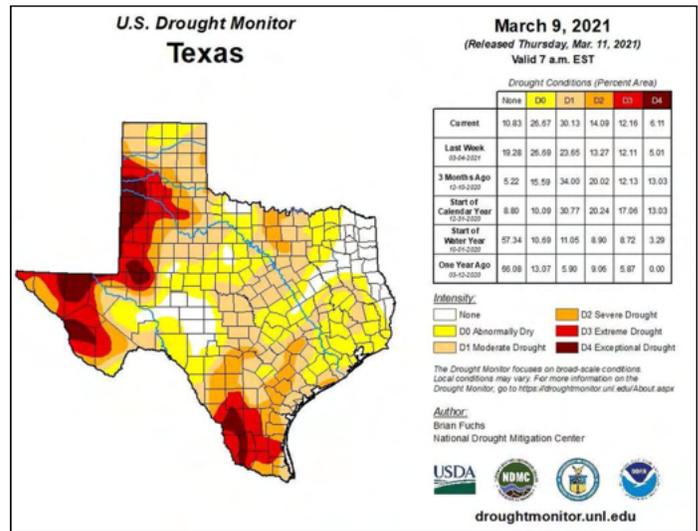


Figure 1. Drought map for March 9.

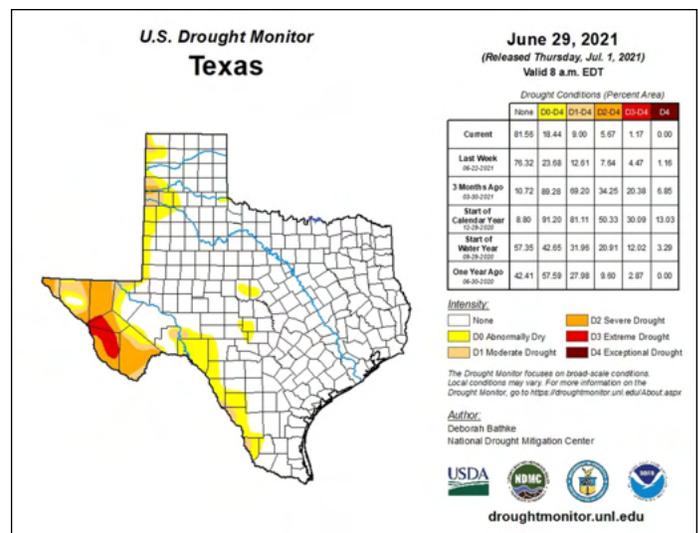


Figure 2. Drought map for July 1.



How many guys does it take....