

FIREWISE TRUMPET

Volume 9

December 2022

Number 11



Sun City Texas
Firewise Group
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

In This Issue:

Page 1

December-January Calendar
Firewise Group Notes
Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers
Firewise Web Site Links
From the Chair

Page 2

Town Hall - Embers, Fuel Breaks, and Fire Stops
Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training review
Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News
Sun City is Now '5 Firewise Communities'
Firewise Schedule for 2023 **Mark your calendar!**
The Annual Renewal Document is available

Firewise Group Notes

- * The December 7 Firewise Group Meeting included 12 members and 4 liaisons.
 - * The new display board was discussed.
 - * Firewise Town Hall was reviewed
 - * HIZ Evaluator training was held with 1 new Evaluator, 1 Firewise Neighborhood Partner, and 11 for continuing education.
 - * Reviewed update on the 5 community reorganization.
 - * 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 January 19, 2023 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks

January

January 19, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room
January 25, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room
January 27, 2023, 2:00 pm Firewise Landscape Vendor Training, Atrium

February

February 16, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room
February 22, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

Month ending	10/26	12/7
Received	1,086	1,089
Completed	1,082	1,087
New requests	11	2
Open	4	1

From The Chair

DECK THE HALLS, SAFELY

The holiday season is here, 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.

(continued—Page 2)

Have a Safe Holiday!

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

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

Our Partners



Click logo for information!

Merry Christmas!
Happy Hannukah!
Happy New Year!

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

From The Chair (continued from Page 1)

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 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 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

David Hubbell, Firewise Group Chair

The Annual Renewal Document is available

Each year we prepare a narrative of the what is submitted to renew of our Firewise status. It and earlier renewals can be accessed [here](#).

Sun City is Now ‘5 Firewise Communities’

Sun City is officially five Firewise Communities to meet the requirements of Firewise USA. They are named Sun City Texas CA 1 through Sun City Texas CA 5.

The new requirement is a maximum of 2,500 dwellings per community. Our largest community is 2,242 dwellings. The total dwellings as of October 31 was 8,784 dwellings with an estimated population of 16,250 residents.

Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training

The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Evaluator Training was held October 28 with 10 HIZ Evaluators, 1 new HIZ Evaluator and a Firewise Neighborhood Partner in attendance. The new Evaluator is Steve LeClaire (N67). Currently there are 15 active Evaluators.

A revised HIZ report form was introduced and reviewed.

A total of 35 HIZ evaluations were made in 2022.

2023 Upcoming Firewise Events

January 27, 2023, 2:00 pm Firewise Landscaper Vendor Training, Atrium

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News
The Firewise Clearing Crew wishes you Happy Holidays and we’ll be back in 2023!

Remember to check around the outside of your homes and holiday decorations, to see what you can do to help prevent unnecessary fires. Something so small that you can do now, will make a difference.

Petra Garren

Volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator

Town Hall - Embers, Fuel Breaks, Fire Breaks, Houses

Town Hall was held on October 4 will approximately 125 residents in attendance. The program featured Walter Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service, with ‘Factors Influencing Fire Behavior in Sun City’. Clay Shell, Georgetown Fire Department, described ‘What is a Wildfire?’ Christy Rogers, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Georgetown, reviewed Emergency Notifications, including Warn Central Texas system and Personal Preparedness. Dan Dodson and Paul Ohlenbusch reviewed why embers are the primary source of structure fires from a wildfire and defined fuel breaks, fire break, and fire stops.

Firewise Schedule for 2023

Please mark your calendars!

<u>date</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>event</u>
1/9/23**	1-3pm	Education/Training
1/25/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
1/27/23	2-3:pm	Landscaper Vendor Train
2/16/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
2/22/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
3/16/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
3/22/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
4/20/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
4/26/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
5/05/23	8:30am	Wildfire Preparedness Day
5/18/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
5/24/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
6/15/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
6/28/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
7/20/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
7/26/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
8/17/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
8/23/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
9/21/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
9/27/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
10/10/23	9:30am	Firewise Town Hall
10/19/23	1-3pm	Education/Training
10/25/23	1-3pm	Firewise Group
10/27/23	9am	HIZ Training
12/6/23	1pm	Firewise Group

** note date change