

# FIREWISE TRUMPET

Volume 9

May 2022

Number 4



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## May

May 6, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, CCP, 8:30 am  
May 19, New Resident Orientation, 8:30 am, SCB  
May 19, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room  
May 25, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## June

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

## Firewise Group Notes

The March 23 Firewise Group Meeting included 8 members and 2 liaisons.

The following were discussed:

\* The May 6 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day plans were reviewed.

\* Dividing Sun City into 5 communities was discussed.

\* Volunteer Clearing Crew report on page 2.

\* A discussion of the Firewise plant list availability Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks.

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>Month ending</u>	3/23	4/23
Received	1,059	1,061
Completed	1,048	1,059
New requests	1	0
Open	11	2

## From The Chair

Today, May 6, 2022, the Firewise Group of Sun City held a Firewise Preparedness Day. The weather was fantastic, thanks to the rain yesterday. There was a great turnout of volunteers, just over sixty people including volunteers from neighborhoods, CA Staff, and the Georgetown Fire Department. Thanks to everybody who helped out, either in the clearing, or those who worked behind the scenes.

A special thanks for Jim Romine, the Executive Director, Sun City Texas Community Association, for his support and help for the efforts of the Firewise Group. Also, a special thanks for Clay Shell, the Assistant Fire Chief of the Georgetown Fire Department.

(continued on page 2)

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications/Renewal Documents](#)

[Town Hall videos](#)

## Our Partners



Click logo for information!

## 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

### **The Firewise Group**

The Sun City Texas Firewise Group began at a meeting in January 2009. Attendance included Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), CA Staff, representatives from Property & Grounds and Wildlife Management Committees, and Georgetown Fire Department (GFD). A discussion of the Firewise program objectives and expectations was held. A tour of part of Sun City was conducted for everyone's benefit.

After meeting the Firewise USA requirements, Sun City became a Firewise Community for 2009. It was recognized at a town hall in March 2010. Over the next two years, TFS supplied training in several aspects of the Firewise program.

Three programs have developed over the years. The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Evaluation Program was started with training in 2010 with six people trained. By 2012, 45 HIZ Evaluators had been trained. We now maintain 15-20 Evaluators who can conduct 50-75 evaluations annually. The most HIZ Evaluations were conducted from August 2011 to July 2012 as a result of the drought and the Bastrop Complex wildfire. Over 445 Evaluations were conducted! To date over 1,000 have been done!.

The Education Program has conducted at least one Town Hall each year (except 2020). It has developed several publications for residents. The Wildfire Community Preparedness Day has been conducted since 2014 except for 2020 and 2021.

The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew began in 2011 initially to assist the CA Landscape Supervisor. It later became a part of the Firewise Group. It continues to work for about two hours each week except for the summer.

The Firewise Group was ready for new opportunities, challenges, and changes!



### **From The Chair** (continued from Page 1)

Others that I have great appreciation for is Petra Garren, who leads the clearing crews and is also the Vice Chair of the Firewise Group, Paul Ohlenbusch, Dan Dodson, Doug Lane and Melissa Lane. All of the activity was topped off by a great lunch provided by Jason's Deli. Thanks again, to everybody that helped out.

David Hubbell

Firewise Group Chair

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

Volunteers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, tackled Ashe Juniper behind the homes of Fairway Ridge Dr. Removal of the small trees and limbs low to the ground helps mitigate the possible spread of fires that may spread across the ground. Also while in that area, they were able to clear the drainage ditch of Willow Baccharis thus ensuring that water would continue to drain and not be blocked by the debris that could be collected by the Willow Baccharis.

Petra Garren

Volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



The Volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew hard at work in N58.

### **2022 Major Firewise Events**

New Resident Orientation

May 19, 8:30, SCB

August 18, 8:30, SCB

November 17, 8:30, SCB

Firewise Town Hall

October 5, 9:30 am, SCB

Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training

October 28, 9:00 am, Advice Room



## Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, May 6, 2022



The Wildfire Community Preparedness Day included residents and Georgetown Fire Department personnel plus CA Staff.

The Wildfire Community Preparedness Day was held May 6 at the Cowen Creek Pavilion. There were about 40 residents, 10 CA Staff, six Georgetown Fire Department (GFD) and a representative from Texas A&M Forest Service.

The morning began with some donuts and fresh fruit followed by a welcome and thanking the businesses that contributed. A group photo was taken (above). The residents and GFD personnel cut Ashe juniper (cedar) in a fuel break across from the Cowan Creek Amenity Center. Their work took about two hours.

After completing the field work a sandwich lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

### Thank you to our Contributors!

The businesses contributing to the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day were:

**Bartlett Tree Experts**

**Brightview Landscaping**

**Don Homeyer State Farm Insurance**

**Russell Glass Company**

**TCB Landscaping, Inc.**

and

**Sun City Texas Community Association**

**THANK YOU to  
ALL WHO MADE THE DAY a SUCCESS!**



**Thank you to everyone who came out and helped!**

(l-r) Opening remarks and instructions

Lunch provided by Sun City CA



(l-r) Koda the Fire Dog!

Clay Shell, Assistant Chief,  
Georgetown Fire Department

Walter Flocke, Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator,  
Texas A&M Forest Service