

# FIREWISE TRUMPET

Volume 9

August 2022

Number 7



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

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## August

August 18, New Resident Orientation, 8:30 am, SCB

August 18, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room

August 24, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## September

September 15, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room

September 28, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## Firewise Group Notes

The July 27 Firewise Group Meeting was not held.

Meeting Notes for previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2022 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks.

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>Month ending</u>	<u>6/22</u>	<u>7/27</u>
Received	1,067	1,071
Completed	1,066	1,069
New requests	0	4
Open	1	3

## 2022 Major Firewise Events

New Resident Orientation

August 18, 8:30, SCB

November 17, 8:30, SCB

Firewise Town Hall

October 4, 9:30 am, SCB

Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training

October 28, 9:00 am, Adice Room

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications/Renewal Documents](#)

[Town Hall videos](#)

## From The Chair

Yes, it's the drought of 2022. There have been numerous wildfires in the Georgetown area. Not wanting to use someone else's info, I won't go into details. Recently, heat stroke was discussed in The Trumpet. So without rehashing older material, here is some info for Heat Exhaustion. It's one of three heat-related syndromes, with heat cramps being the mildest and heatstroke being the most severe.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include: cool, moist skin with goose bumps when in the heat, heavy sweating, faintness, dizziness, fatigue, weak, rapid pulse, low blood pressure upon standing, muscle cramps, nausea and or headache.

A person should see a doctor if the signs or symptoms worsen or if they don't improve within one hour. If you are with someone showing signs of heat exhaustion, seek immediate medical (continued on page 2)

## 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

**From The Chair** (continued from Page 1)  
attention if they become confused or agitated, lo-  
seconsciousness, or are unable to drink. You will  
need immediate cooling and urgent medical atten-  
tion if the core body temperature (measured by a  
rectal thermometer) reaches 104 F (40 C) or high-  
er.

Causes of heat exhaustion include exposure to  
high temperatures, particularly when combined  
with high humidity, and strenuous physical activi-  
ty. Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion  
can lead to heatstroke, a life-threatening condi-  
tion. Fortunately, heat exhaustion is preventable.

David Hubbell

Firewise Group Chair



### What are Fuel Breaks?

Drought is here! Wildfires have been keeping  
fire departments busy.

The purpose of fuel breaks is to reduce the  
height of the grass vegetation (fine fuels that ig-  
nite easily). The reduction in fuel height provides  
less fuel to carry the flames. The reduced flames  
provide an area where the fire department can  
control the fire.

Sun City has maintained mowed fuel breaks  
for many years. Twice each year, a 10-30 feet  
wide strip is mowed along Resident's property in  
common areas. This creates an area of 5-6 inch  
stubble and mulched material that is difficult to  
burn. Shrubs have been removed to reduce the  
potential for flames to move into trees if present.

There are two types of fuel breaks. The open  
fuel break (Figure 1) has few if any trees. Shrubs  
are removed if necessary. Shaded fuel breaks  
(Figure 2) are created by removing shrubs and  
limbing trees 6-8 feet above the ground allowing  
for mowing equipment to operate safely.

Some large Sun City common areas have wid-  
er fuel breaks to protect neighborhoods. They  
were established some distance from a neighbor-  
hood. The width of these are more than 30 feet  
and are not mowed. The shrubs were removed to  
prevent a crown fire from continuing.

## Think Fire Safety!

### Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

As we look around our community, we see a  
lot of brown vegetation and stressed trees. Even  
farther outside of our community we can see evi-  
dence of scorched grounds due to fire. This is re-  
ally an eye opener and should cause us to think of  
ways to prevent this around our own homes.

We each have a responsibility to help keep our  
community safe by contributing to the safety out-  
side our own homes. Take time to look around the  
exterior of your home to see what could potentially  
cause a fire or be fuel for fire. Dead vegetation?  
Fraying electrical cord? Leak on the BBQ Grill  
tank? These are all tasks that you can correct now  
and prevent problems.

Help the Crewing Crew keep the Level 3 area  
behind our property line clean by not putting trash  
or yard waste in it. It will only be another source  
of fuel for the fire. If you have concerns or see  
something that needs attention, reach out to the  
Common Area & Irrigation Superintendent.

The Crew is reenergizing and will start back up  
in September. Until then let's all Stay Safe.

Petra Garren

Volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



Figure 1. An example of an open fuel break



Figure 2. An example of a shaded fuel break.