



From The Chair

We will be choosing officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for 2024 at the February Firewise Group meeting. All three positions as well as other positions will be needing volunteers to fill them. Please contact Paul Ohlenbusch if you are interested in serving.

Judy Whitmore is moving from Sun City and will not be a candidate. We wish to thank her for her service as Secretary.

Dan Dodson, Chair

February

February 15, 2024, New Resident Orientation, 8:30 am, SCB

February 15, 2024, Education-Training Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

February 28, 2024, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

March

March 21 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

March 27 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room



Research by US Forest Service and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has shown over 80% of homes destroyed by wildfire are the result of wind blown embers.

When wildfires occur, embers (and firebrands which are large pieces) can be produced. They can be blown by the wind for several miles. The higher the speed, the further the embers can travel.

Embers can ignite any flammable part of any object near or on a house resulting in a fire. Wildfires often limit the availability of fire protection. The result can be one house igniting and winds carrying the flames to nearby houses igniting them.

Sun City houses are relatively fire resistant with the exterior being stucco, brick, masonry, and cement board. Older houses are less resistant since they have exposed wood or wood-like trim and other exposed features.

Home owners can increase the fire resistance of their homes through understanding where the home is vulnerable. Each house has two zones that need to be managed. The first or **Immediate Zone** is within five feet of the house. Flammable vegetation (rosemary, ornamental grasses, and others) should be beyond or away from windows and exposed wood. Utility connections such as natural gas and electrical connections should be readily accessible. There are others and there is information available on the Firewise web site. (continued on page 2)

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

Welcome 2024! The Firewise Clearing Crew continues to assist the CA and the Firewise Group in maintaining our "Firewise Recognized" community status.

This past year found us in all the 5 Sun City Neighborhood Areas. Removing dead brush and limbs, limbing Juniper Ashe up so that possible ground fires couldn't spread up the tree and causing embers to fly, removing baby and small Juniper Ashe thus preventing them from growing into big trees. We were even able to help the CA with some Willow Baccharis removal from some drainage areas to help control possible flooding and a fire fuel source.

This great group of volunteer Sun City residents are dedicated to ensuring that our community stays safe, but they also know how to have fun while working. 2023 found the Crew volunteering 983 hours for the Firewise Group's Firewise Recognized recertification. A great group of folks!

Sound like something you'd be interested in volunteering with? Go to the Sun City's website, on the "Homepage" and on the "About Us" tab, go to the Firewise tab, and find the "Volunteer tab" and fill it out.

Petra Garren

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



Our Partners



Click logo for information!

NOTE:

February is election of officers.

The opportunity to help with the work groups is open.

Opportunities on page 2.

In This Issue:

Page 1

February-March Calendar
From the Chair
Clearing Crew News
It's All About the Embers!

Page 2

Work Group Opportunities
Firewise Group Notes
Some February Holidays
Home Ignition Zone (HiZ) Numbers
Firewise Web Site Links
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Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>As of:</u>	<u>12/6</u>	<u>1/26</u>
Received	1,131	1,131
Completed	1,128	1,131
New requests	1	0
Open	3	0

Firewise Group Meeting Notes

* The January 26 Firewise Group Meeting had 9 members and 3 liaisons present. The following were the topics:

- * Education/Training
 - Reviewed Sun City directory page
 - Wildfire Preparedness-Appreciation Day
 - Landscape Vendor Training
 - * HIZ report
 - * Firewise Clearing Crew report. (see page 1)
 - * Election of Officers - February meeting
- Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the [web site](#).

The next Firewise Group meeting will be February 28, 2024 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

It's All About the Embers! (continued)

The **Intermediate Zone** is from five feet to the property line. It includes trees that should be maintained at least four feet above the roof. This distance will also reduce the potential for roof damage in high winds,

Need help in determining if your house needs help? Request a Home Ignition Zone Evaluation by trained evaluators who can help you understand your situation. The Evaluation is FREE and confidential. You can request one on the Firewise web site. If your neighborhood has a Firewise Neighborhood Partner, they can help you request it.

It's up to each of us to protect our property.

Please be FIREWISE!

Some February Holidays



World Cancer Day
February 4



National Pizza Day
February 9



Valentine's Day
February 14



President's Day
February 19

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications](#)

[Annual Renewal Documents](#)

[2023 Town Hall video](#)

[Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

The Trumpet is published monthly. If you have information to share, please send it to ole7734@suddenlink.net by the 28th of each month.

Work Group Opportunities

The Firewise Group is in need of volunteers to help coordinate the group's work. Some long time leaders desire to step back and help new volunteers to take over the responsibilities over the next year.

Chair: Dan Dodson (not continuing)

Vice-Chair: Mark Marino

Recorder: Judy Whitmore (not continuing)

Education-Training Work Group

Coordinators:

Education: Dan Dodson, need one more
Prepare material for Sun Rays, Communicator, NRO Bulletin, and publications.

Training: Paul Ohlenbusch, need one more
Home Ignition Zone Evaluators and Landscape Vendor Training.

Manage events: need one, Ed Butler
Wildfire Preparedness-Appreciation Day,
Town Hall: Paul Ohlenbusch, Dan Dodson
New Residents Orientation-quarterly: need 2 people
Neighborhood Partners: need one or two

Firewise Clearing Crew

Coordinator: Petra Garren, need one more
assist with weekly workdays cutting vines and junipers (cedars) in the Level 3 fuel break common areas

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Work Group

Coordinators: Doug Lane (resigning), Paul Ohlenbusch
receive, document, assign, and complete requests

Renewal Work Group

Coordinators: Paul Ohlenbusch, need one more
collect data and information and update documentation required to apply for annual renewal

Volunteer Roster

Coordinators: Paul Ohlenbusch, one more needed
update rosters for Firewise Group, HIZ valutors, Education-Training and Partners, Renewal Clearing Crew - coordinate with the Coordinators

For more information - contact Paul Ohlenbusch.
ole7734@suddenlink.net
512-639-0973

**Please promote the
Home Ignition Zone Evaluation!**

Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - Dan Dodson
Vice-Chair - Mark Marino
Recorder - Judy Whitmore
Webmaster - Melissa Lane
HIZ Coordinator - Doug Lane
Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren
Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson
Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch