



From The Chair

Hello, Maybe you are enjoying the cool down outside past the Holiday? Had a good Labor Day weekend? A safe one?

Our Sun City Firewise, U.S.A. group is holding a Town Hall next month. In the Sun City Ballroom starting at 9:30 am, the morning of Oct. 8th. There are some important people to meet as you walk through the door.

Have a chair to hear some interesting talk about wildfire prevention from a lineup of speakers.

I have reviewed our videos listed on our FIREWISE folder contained in the SUN CITY CA webpage. The years recorded are 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2023. The videos run a little more than one-hour.

Sun Rays story says Oct. 8th, Tuesday is the FIREWISE TOWNHALL. I want to see what happens this year.

Can you join me?

Mark Marino

Firewise Group Chair

Upcoming Events

October 8, 2024, Tuesday, 9:30a, Firewise Town Hall, SCB
October 25, Friday - Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training and Review, 9:00a-12:00p, Andice Room

Firewise Partners Corner

What is a Home Ignition Zone Evaluation?

Please read the natural gas article on page 2. You might be able to help your neighborhood better understand natural gas.

Also, the article to the right about the Town Hall should be promoted in your neighborhood.

Firewise Group Meeting Notes

The July 24 Firewise Group Meeting was attended by 10 members and no liaisons.

The items covered were:

- * Update on the October 8 Town Hall
- * The table cover for displays will be replaced
- * Firewise signs at entrances will be installed
- * Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the [web site](#).

The next Firewise Group meeting will be September 25, 2024 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

September

September 19 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

September 25 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

October

October 8 - Firewise Town Hall, 9:30am, SCB

October 17 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

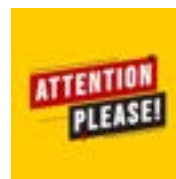
October 23 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00p, Mesquite Room

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

The Firewise Clearing Crew will be coming off "Siesta" after the Labor Day Holiday. The Crew is gathering their tools, servicing them and "eating their Wheaties" to be ready. Remember by keeping your yard "Firewise safe", you help to reduce possible fires and the spreading of embers to other locations in our community.

Petra Garen

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



DOES FIREWISE WORK?

October 8 Firewise Town Hall

Join us on October 8, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Social Center Ballroom to learn how the Firewise concept relies on different groups to reduce the threat. The homeowner is the important final link.

The science behind the program is important. Texas A&M Forest Service, Georgetown Fire Department, and Sun City Firewise will discuss how each level provides current information in the chain impacts and serves the individual homeowner. The home owner decides how they use the information.

Research and documentation have shown that embers from a wildfire two miles or more away can produce embers that are the major contributor to house fires during a wildfire event. Sun City homes have limited areas where they can be ignited by embers. How each house is constructed and what is next to it that can contribute to the possibility of your home igniting.

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Click logo for information!

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

Firewise and Natural Gas Meters

Every Sun City home has connections for utilities to their house. Natural gas is one that needs to be understood. Figure 1 shows the parts of the gas meter.

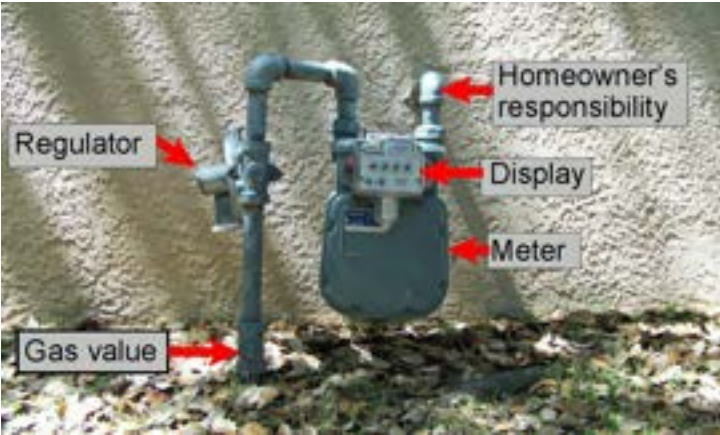


Figure 1. The parts of a gas meter.

The Meter

The natural gas meter is the property of Atmos Energy except for the pipe labeled 'Homeowners responsibility' and in the house. Each part of the meter is important.

The valve is used to turn the gas on or off. More about that later.

The regulator controls the gas pressure entering the house. The pressure reaching the meter is higher and must be reduced to be safe.

The meter is the main part of the system. It includes the display showing the number of thousands of cubic feet that have flowed through. The number is read by radio frequency transmission.

Safety Considerations

EMERGENCY

- If you smell gas (rotten egg smell):
- LEAVE the area immediately!
 - From a safe distance, CALL 911.
 - Then call the **Atmos Energy's 24-hour toll-free emergency number - 866.322.8667.**

At the same time:

- DO NOT turn on or off any electric switch; this could cause a spark, igniting the gas.
- DO NOT use a cell phone, telephone, garage door opener, doorbell, or even a flashlight.
- DO NOT smoke, use a lighter, or strike a match.
- DO NOT start or stop a nearby vehicle or machinery.
- DO NOT try to shut off a natural gas valve.

Meter is Rusting or Damaged?

If the meter has signification rust or has been damaged, call 888-286-6700, to report the situation so

Atmos can correct the problem.
Need Service or Repairs Inside?

If you gas appliances or lines need service or repairs, use a licensed plumber or qualified contractor. They are trained to assess the problem and make repairs.

Accessibility

Question: Is the meter readily accessible? There are some homes where physical barriers may limit access to the meter (Figure 2). In an emergency, a large bush, shrub, or structure could reduce access to the meter.

Firewise?

Is the situation in Figure 3 Firewise? Any landscape material that is really flammable should not be close to the meter!

More Information

Occasionally, Atmos Energy includes a folded document with the bill. It has detailed information about natural gas, safety, and more. Please read it!



Figure 2. Is the gas meter here?



Figure 3. Flammable plants should not be close to the gas meter.

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers		
As of:	6/26	7/24
Received	1,145	1,147
Completed	1,144	1,147
New requests	2	0
Open	1	0

September Holidays
September 2 Labor Day
September 8 Grandparents Day
September 11 PATRIOT DAY
September 29 Gold Star Mothers Day

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

- [Web Site](#)
- [Meeting Notes](#)
- [Current Publications](#)
- [Home Ignition Zone Evaluation](#)
- [Annual Renewal Documents](#)
- [2023 Town Hall video](#)
- [Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

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Firewise Group Leadership

- Chair - Mark Marino
- Vice-Chair - Pete Mollidor
- Recorder - Cheryl Taylor
- Webmaster - Melissa Lane
- HIZ Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch
- Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren
- Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson
- Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch