



From The Chair

We held our 2025 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS APPRECIATION DAY at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center on Friday, May 9th. There were 61 folks in attendance. Special thanks to our Sponsors: Brightview Landscaping, Don Homeyer State Farm Insurance, TCB Quality Landscaping and Bartlett Tree Experts. Thanks to Sun City CA for their support!

We had our group photo near the work site. The Georgetown Fire Department was out on a call at camera time. Next the resident volunteers and the Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew hit the work site behind the Cowan Creek Amenity Center indoor swimming pool. The site had trash, deadwood and Ashe juniper removed along the sidewalk. Kari Hines, our TFS Firewise Liaison joined us.

When the work ended, we moved inside Cowan Creek Amenity Center for lunch and a program. T-shirts were available in yellow with the logo and event date. Bartlett Tree Experts had free red buckeye seedlings available.

Firewise Chair, Mark Marino gave keynotes about Sun City's past Preparedness and Appreciation Days. This was the Firewise USA seventeenth-year at Sun City!

Sun City CA staff provided the room meeting with lunch.

Firewise Vice-Chair Pete Molitor announced the 5-year service awards to:

Tom Li, Doug Lane, Melissa Lane and Gerald Handlos who are all important Sun City Firewise members!

Mark Marino, Firewise Group Chair

Firewise Partners Corner

Our next event is the Firewise Town Hall, October 7, in the ball room. Planning will began at the June Education-Training Work Group Meeting, June 19.

Questions? Send an email!



Wildfire damage on July 4, 2022, week-end along TX 195. Damage was to the wood fence behind the houses.

Glad we don't have wood fences!

Our Partners



FIREWISE USA
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Click logo for information!

June

June 19 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00pm, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

June 25 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00pm, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

July

July 17 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00pm, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

July 23 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00pm, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

So far this year the Clearing Crew has "knocked out" quite a bit of Ashe Juniper and of our least favorite- Willow Baccharis. Even though we had to "slip a few dates behind Mother Nature's back", we were lucky to get it done.

I'd like to thank our new volunteers for joining us this year, as well as a big thank you to all of the Crew for blocking your Tuesday mornings and accomplishing some very worthy work. The CA and many of our residents are very appreciative and now know what I have known for a long time - this crew is awesome!

Our summer siesta is just about here, and we'll be enjoying vacations and other events... like huh sleeping in...not being attacked by sticky green vines and chiggers, enjoying the AC... you got the picture. LOL!

Remember to do your part around your homes to help keep our community safe and keep us a "Firewise Recognized Community".

Stay cool!

Petra Garren

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator



Our nemesis- Willow Baccharis

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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.

How Sun City Firewise Adapts Firewise USA Concepts

Firewise USA has developed mitigation practices to prepare a home against wildfires. Texas A&M Forest Service also has information. These concepts can be found online. The practices were developed from data from wildfires and research. The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety and the US Forest Service Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory are two of the sources with detailed research information.

The Sun City Approach

Over the years, we have adapted and adjusted the practices to fit Sun City homes, topography and vegetation. Items considered include distance between houses, construction materials, vents and other openings, plants and outdoor improvements. Factors we can't control but must take into consideration include weather, particularly drought and wind, and fire service availability.

The one factor we are most concerned with is embers that a wildfire can produce. The wind can move the embers up to a mile or more and potentially start new fires. Research and experience show at least 80% of structures lost are from ember ignition.

The House

Let's consider a typical house. The outside is covered with fire resistant materials such as stucco, brick, masonry and cement board, and has a Class A roof of asphalt shingles. A particular item of concern is any exposed wood or wood-like surfaces. Door frames, eaves and additions are examples.

There are vents on every house that need to be considered. Roof vents and dryer vents come to mind. Eave end gable and roof vents should have 1/8 inch metal screening covering the opening. The screening will stop all but the smallest embers.

Dryer vents should not be screened! Vents that go directly through the wall should be checked regularly. Lint should not be accumulating on the outside cover. The flap must close when the dryer is not being used. If the dryer flap remains open, insects and birds can nest in them. Damaged vents should be replaced. Roof vented dryers should be cleaned every 2-4 years. There are companies who offer this service.

Shrubs and Trees

The best protection for the home is five foot of non-combustible material around the house. If this doesn't fit your situation, there are other options.

If shrubs or plants are present, allow 6-12 inch clearance from the wall and 4-6 inches below the plant if possible. Keep vegetation height at or below a window.

Mature trees near the home should be maintained at least four feet above the roof if possible to protect the shingles. Native and adapted trees are difficult for embers to ignite. Plant trees that will grow above the eaves five or more feet from the foundation. This will limit damage to the fascia, gutters, and roof.

Do you want to know if your home is Firewise? Request a Home Ignition Zone Evaluation click [here](#).

Firewise Group Meeting Notes

The May 28 Firewise Group Meeting was CANCELLED.

Meeting Notes for previous meetings can be found on the [web site](#).

The next Firewise Group meeting will be June 25, 2025 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.



Preferred clearance for shrubs if possible



Vent needs cleaning now!

Upcoming Events

August 21, Meet Your Community Welcome Day, SCB

October 7, Firewise Town Hall, 9:30 am, SCB

October 24, Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, 9:00 am, Andice Room

June Holidays

5 World Environment Day
6 D-Day Anniversary
8 National Best Friends Day
14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day
19 Juneteenth
20 Summer Solstice



Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)
[Meeting Notes](#)
[Current Publications](#)
[Home Ignition Zone Evaluation](#)
[Annual Renewal Documents](#)
[2024 Town Hall video](#)
[Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

Home Ignition Zone Evaluations

As of:	4/23	5/25
Received	1,169	1,173
Completed	1,165	1,169
New requests	4	2
Open	4	4

Firewise Group Leadership

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