

FIREWISE TRUMPET



Volume 5

September 2018

Number 8

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September Calendar

September 20, Education Work Group, 10 am, CF-AC
September 26, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, MR3-4

October Calendar

October 9, Firewise Town Hall, 9:00 am, SCB
October 18, HIZ Training and Continuing Education
October 24, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, MR3-4

Firewise Group Notes

The Firewise Group met August 22 with 6 members and EMC and CA Liaisons present.

Education/Training - Firewise Town Hall will focus on 10 years of Firewise in Sun City. This will be the 10th anniversary celebration. See box on right for more information.

Training - Next HIZ Training will be October 18. We will be introducing a new revision of the HIZ form to include new features found in the houses currently being built. See page 2 for more information.

HIZ Numbers Update See box to right.

Volunteer Clearing Crew News See details on page 2.

For additional details see the Meeting Notes on the website.

The next Firewise Group meeting is September 26, 2018, 1 pm, MR 3-4. **Everyone is urged to attend.**

Sun City Texas Firewise Group needs our HIZ Evaluators and Clearing Crew volunteers to help with our ongoing functions. If you can help, contact any of the officers!

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

Month ending	8/1/18	9/1/18
Received	920	944
New requests	4	24
Completed	905	929
Open	19	14
On hold	0	1

October 9 Town Hall

Our Town Hall this year focuses on the past 10 years and the future of Sun City Texas Firewise. The topics include:

SCT Firewise Looks Back to 2009

Texas A&M Forest Service Helps Communities

Georgetown Fire Department Programs

SCT Firewise Looks to the Future

Before and after the Town Hall the following groups will be available to answer questions:

Firewise Group

Emergency Management Committee
COPs

Wildlife Management Committee

Property & Grounds Committee

Georgetown Fire Department

Texas A&M Forest Service

USAA Insurance

Come out and celebrate 10 years of Firewise!

Our Partners



Click logo for information!

Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - Petra Garren

Vice-Chair - Ron Thompson

Secretary - Fred Hill

Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson

Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch

Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

October 18 is HIZ Training/Continuing Education

Please put the 9 am to 3 pm Training on your calendar. There will be updates of new features on the newer houses with how to determine what they are.

This training will be introducing a new revision of the HIZ form to include the new features found in the current houses being built. There will also be a greatly revised introduction section that highlights new information about fire and its behavior. Some of the form changes are the result of this information.

An email will be sent on how to sign up on September 20.

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News June 27, 2018 Clearing Update:

We are on "Siesta" for the summer after 26 June's clearing workday. I want to thank everyone for their help and support as well as wish them a safe and enjoyable break. I will send out a two weeks advance notice when we'll start up again in the fall.

Stay Safe and see you in the fall!

Petra Garren

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator

2017 and previous years Firewise Renewal Documents

The narrative file for the Firewise Recognition are available on the web site. Click [here](#) to read the documents.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

[Click here for copy](#)

Being Firewise Around Your Home
What is Firewise? It's All About the **EMBERS!**
Sun City and Firewise Ignition Zones
Ashe Juniper (Cedar) in Sun City Texas

**The Firewise web site is available by
[clicking here](#)**

Firewise Town Hall videos

You can view the October 3, 2017 and previous Town Hall videos by [clicking here](#).

Firewise Review: Vents and Other Openings

There are places on and around a house where embers can enter or accumulate and possibly ignite the house. The two most common are vents and flammable decks. In Sun City, vents are the most common consideration.

There are two types of vents: those that allow the attic space to circulate air and those that vent the interior of the house. Each has maintenance considerations.

Attic ventilation uses eave vents, gable end vents and roof vents. The small louvered eave vents and gable end vents normally have 1/8 inch metal mesh behind them which greatly restricts embers from entering. Some eave vents are a continuous series of small holes that accomplishes the same function. Inspecting and maintaining these vents is important. Roof vents are usually designed to have the air flow upward and then be deflected by a baffle which restricts embers from entering.

The vents for interior ventilation include clothes dryers, range hoods, and sometimes, fresh air systems. Clothes dryer vents may be on the wall of the house or through the roof depending on the their location. Dryer vents on the wall should be inspected regularly to remove accumulated lint and insure that the metal flap is functioning properly. Dryer vents on the roof should be cleaned at least every 2 years to remove accumulated lint (a fire hazard). In newer houses with a second floor, a dryer vent maybe on a the wall at the bottom of the second floor. These need to be cleaned at least every 2 years to remove accumulated lint.

Flammable decks are a major concern. Most are wood or a synthetic material that often has a wood substructure. Small embers can fall through the spaces between boards and ignite debris below. In addition, the sides of the deck are often open which allows leaves and other debris to collect underneath which creates a fire hazard! Closing the openings around the deck can be done with non-flammable lattice material or 1/4 or 1/2 inch galvanized metal mesh. Behind any of these, install a 1/8 inch metal mesh which will reduce the possibility of embers entering. By the way, the 1/4 or 1/2 inch galvanized metal mesh will deter most of our wild critters!

What should you do if you find yourself in an active shooter situation? [Avoid Deny Defend](#) is a 11.5 minute video overview of how to save your life from ALLERT.