

Firewise Tree Pruning Guidelines



Sun City Texas Firewise Group has promoted proper tree pruning as a major part of our Firewise Program. Research, after fire evaluations, and other experiences have been modifying the guidelines for tree care in relation to how ember showers ignite homes.

Firewise Tree Pruning in Sun City Texas

Based on information from our partners, we have developed the following guidelines for Firewise tree and large shrub pruning around a Sun City Texas residence.

- The native trees are considered to have low flammability from embers. Most non-native trees appear to have the same capability.
- Tree and large shrub pruning should follow these criteria **when possible**:
 - pruning should provide a minimum 4 foot clearance above the house roof.
 - wall clearance should be 3 feet **if possible**.
 - where shade and grass growth are a concern, remove lower limbs up to 6 feet to allow sunlight penetration.
 - paint all oak trees immediately after cutting.
 - all pruning should follow ANSI A300 standards. (American National Standards Institute)



An example of pruning to allow for clearance above the roof



When large limbs are close to walls they can be left.



Crepe myrtle pruning can allow normal growth when planted away from the foundation.



An example of pruning to allow sunlight to penetrate.



A mixture of live oak, cedar elm, crepe myrtle, and others.