

# FIREWISE TRUMPET

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## Firewise Group Notes

The March 24 Firewise Group Meeting was a virtual meeting.

The Education/Training Group will develop articles for the Sun Rays, Communicator and NRO Bulletin. The Town Hall is scheduled for October 5.

The next scheduled HIZ Training is October 29.

Petra Garren reported the clearing crew is working as often as possible.

The role of Neighborhood Firewise Reps was discussed.

Meeting Notes for previous meetings can be found on the web site.

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for April 28 with Go To Meeting.

## Upcoming Events

Firewise Town Hall October 5, 9:30 am, SCB  
Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, October 29, 9:00 am.

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

- [Web Site](#)
- [Meeting Notes](#)
- [Current Publications/Renewal Documents](#)
- [Town Hall videos](#)



Click logo for information!

## April

April 15, Education Work Group, 10:00 am, **VIRTUAL**

April 28, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm **VIRTUAL**

## May

May 15, Education Work Group, 10:00 am, **Activity Conference Room**

May 28, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, **Mesquite Room**

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

Month ending	2/24	3/24
Received	1,037	1,037
New requests	0	0
Completed	989	991
Open	48	46

## How does a wildfire start?

Wildfires can start from many sources but a spark or ember is enough. Over 90% of wildfires are started by human sources. The remaining 10% are from natural sources. Human causes include smoking, debris burning, sparks thrown from equipment and railroads, power lines, fireworks, campfires, accidental ignitions, and arson.  
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The cigarette that started the fire!

## Firewise Group Leadership

- Chair - David Hubbell
- Vice-Chair - Doug Lane
- Recorder - Judy Whitmore
- HIZ Manager - Ron Thompson
- Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson
- Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch
- Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

## From The Chair

First off, my deepest appreciation to Paul Ohlenbusch for filling in for me as chair for the FireWise Group meeting on March 24, 2021. Congratulations to Douglas Lane as the new Vice-Chair, and Judy Whitmore as the new Recorder.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind: The FireWise Town Hall is scheduled for October 5, 2021. The HIZ Training is tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2021.

Paul Ohlenbusch reported that annual Renewal documentation was completed on time and was submitted to NFPA. The Sun City FireWise Group received the approved renewal certificate, and is covered through calendar year 2021.

Petra reported that the clearing crew has been working on N-64, Rocky Hollow Dr. Work has been slow or cancelled for various reasons.

Paul noted that Sun City needs to be divided into 4 communities for Firewise purposes. This goal was tabled before Covid but needs to be accomplished in the near future.

David Hubbell, Chair

## Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

The weather is finally warming up and the sunshine is brighter. A lot to look forward to for this coming summer.

The beginning of March found us helping to clear downed tree limbs in Level 3 common areas after February's storms. The Crew left quite a few large piles for pick up and to be mulched.

Now, Willow Baccharis is our focus at the moment. Not the Crews' favorite, but they know the importance of this task. Removal in the drainage ditches prevents not only any flooding potential, but it will keep them clean and prevent the buildup of fire fuel.

We have many requests to review areas behind homes for debris removal/clearing, thus preventing build up. The CA Firewise Representatives has their hands full clearing areas around Sun City, so until they can review the areas with us- they'll be on hold. Thank you for your understanding, but we will get to them.

The Crew and I thank you for your support. Stay Safe.

Petra Garren, Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator

### How does a wildfire start? (continued)

#### ***ladder fuels***

Wildfires start in light or fine, fast-drying fuels like grass. A small fire ignites and spreads to adjacent fuels. Weather factors, particularly wind speed, determine what happens. At first, the fire spreads slowly increasing in size. As the size increases, the flames become larger and move downwind faster driven by the wind. The increasing fire size creates heat that can rapidly dry out and heat larger vegetation such as shrubs and small brush. As the fire reaches the dried shrubs and brush it can ignite increasing the heat on larger vegetation. The shrubs and brush provide a vertical path for fire to carry into the crowns of trees. How fast this happens is determined by the wind speed and other factors. Wind speeds as low as 20 miles per hour can easily create a large fire. Higher wind speeds increase the rate at which the fire spreads and what vegetation will burn.

The Ashe juniper is the major concern. It has an oil content and can burn rapidly. Many times the needles are just burned or turn brown. The Ashe juniper burns when high heat from a wildfire dries water from the needles and vaporizes the 'cedar' oil.

