

# FIREWISE TRUMPET

Volume 10

September 2023

Number 8



Sun City Texas Community Association

**Firewise Group**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**

## In This Issue:

### Page 1

September-October Calendar  
From the Chair  
Firewise Group Notes  
Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers  
Firewise Web Site Links

### Page 2

Clearing Crew News  
Neighborhood Partner Training  
Lahaina, Maui, House After Fire  
Drought Monitor for Texas  
Drought Monitor  
2023 Firewise Special Events

## Firewise Group Notes

\* The August 23 Firewise Group Meeting had 9 members and 3 liaisons. The following were the topics:

\* October Town Hall topic will focus on how residents can manage their property to reduce wildfire risk.

\* Training for Neighborhood Firewise Partners will be September 20 and 26.

\* New Resident Orientation report.

\* Firewise Clearing Crew report on Page 2.

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

The next Firewise Group meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2023 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room in The Oaks.



**May it come  
slow over time!**

## Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)  
[Meeting Notes](#)  
[Current Publications](#)  
[Annual Renewal Documents](#)  
[Town Hall videos](#)  
[Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

## Our Partners



Click logo for information!

## September

September 20, Neighborhood Partner Training, 9:30 am, Andice Room, Cowan Creek

September 20, Education/Training Work Group, 1:00 pm; Mesquite Room

September 26, Neighborhood Partner Training, 9:30 am, Andice Room, Cowan Creek

September 27, Firewise Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

## October

October 10, Firewise Group Town Hall, 9:30 am, SCB

October 19, Education-Training Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

October 25, Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

October 27, 9:00 am, Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, Andice Room, Cowan Creek

## Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers

The HIZ completion status:

<u>Month ending</u>	<u>7/26</u>	<u>8/23</u>
Received	1,095	1,118
Completed	1,094	1,104
New requests	0	22
Open	0	14

## From The Chair

Our weather continues set records for high temperatures as well as number of days without measurable rain. Prior to August, we had very few requests for Home Ignition Zone requests from residents. In fact, we received no requests in July.

As wildfires as result increased both in our area and across the nation, we have received over 25 requests and the number increases.

As many residents leave the area (including our evaluators), some of the evaluators are handling multiple evaluations. We thank you for doing this.

(continued page 2)

## Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - Dan Dodson

Vice-Chair - Mark Marino

Recorder - Judy Whitmore

Webmaster - Melissa Lane

HIZ Coordinator - Doug Lane

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson

Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch

### From The Chair (continued)

On another topic, our Firewise information display has been updated. It was used at the August New Resident Orientation presentation in Mid-August and well received. Those who worked on it, thanks for making those changes.

Dan Dodson  
Firewise Group Chair

### Neighborhood Partner Training

Two offerings of the Neighborhood Partner Training will be held on September 20 and September 26 at 9:30 am in the Andice Room at Cowan Creek. The training will last about an hour. Partners only need to attend one.

The training will include what the Firewise Group does, why embers are the concern, how Partners can help the Firewise program, and more.

An email with additional information and how to register will be sent in early September.

### Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

What a hot and dry summer we're having. The Firewise Clearing Crew says "Look around, and you'll see plenty of things that you can do to help reduce the chances of fires on your property and around your homes".

- Pick up dead limbs and leaves around your home and yard/beds.
- Remove combustible and non-fire retardant items from the outside patios.
- Keep your water hoses hooked up to the water spigots to quickly extinguish a fire.

Also, please remember not to put trash or yard waste into the Level 3 common areas (up to 30 feet beyond your property line). Yard waste should be bagged and set out on the first recycle of the month. (Check on Georgetown City's [web-site](#) for additional information.)

The Clearing Crew is "patiently" waiting for September to cool down just a bit more before we head back out, helping the CA to help keep our community "Firewise Safe". Be sure to do your part too.

Petra Garren  
Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator

### Drought Monitor for Texas

The current Williamson County drought status by the Drought Monitor is EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT. As of August 31 data, over 98% of Texas is in some level of drought. The is up from almost 20% since August 1. The outlook for September is for the drought to continue.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a map released, with discussion, each Thursday morning, showing where drought is and how bad it is across the U.S. and its territories. The map uses six classifications:

- normal conditions - no drought
- abnormally dry (D0) - areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought
- moderate (D1)
- severe (D2)
- extreme (D3)
- exceptional (D4)

There are options to compare between dates, animations of how conditions have changed over time, and more.

The Drought Monitor for Texas is available each Thursday morning. Click [here](#) for the Texas Drought Monitor.

Also available is the [North American Drought Monitor](#) which comes out monthly, reflecting drought conditions across the entire continent.



### 2023 Firewise Events

September 20, Neighborhood Partner Training, 9:30 am, Andice Room, Cowan Creek  
September 26, Neighborhood Partner Training, 9:30 am, Andice Room, Cowan Creek  
October 10, 9:30 am, Firewise Town Hall, SCB  
October 27, 9:00 am, Home Ignition Zone Evaluation Training, Andice Room  
November 16, 8:30 am, New Resident Orientation, SCB