Tailoring the Firewise® Concepts to Your Community

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Who Are We?


What is Sun City Texas?

Sun City Texas is a retirement community in Georgetown, Texas established in 1995.
Currently, there are approximately 7,200 rooftops on 4,100 acres.
Expansion will increase the rooftops to 10,000 on about 5,000 acres.
Approximately 20% of the area is in native common areas.
Sun City Texas was originally overgrazed ranch land in 1995.
Sun City will build out at 10,000 rooftops on 5,000 acres
Sun City Firewise

- Educate residents about dangers from wildfire
- Inform residents of steps that may be taken to reduce loss
- Train Home Ignition Zone Evaluators to conduct evaluations
- Train Landscape vendors in Firewise concepts
- Reduce the potential for wildfire in native areas
- Stay abreast of latest information about wildfires and their effects
Sun City has steadily grown in houses and people.
Demographics

Age of Residents

Current average age is 73 years young!
Demographics

Employment Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>not working</th>
<th>working part time</th>
<th>working full time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
The Firewise model does not fit the urban/sururban areas. Modifications are needed
Applying the general Firewise model includes several other property owners.
Survivable Space

The more houses that are maintain in a 'Firewise" condition the better!

Moving toward a DEFENSIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD
Sun City Texas History

- 2005 - 12 acre wildfire
- 2007 - June flood (some clearing)
- 2008 - Process begun by the Wildlife Management and Property & Grounds
- 2010 - September 7 flood (some clearing)
- 2011 – Bastrop and Steiner Ranch fires
  - Some clearing began
- Property & Grounds, Wildlife Management, Emergency Management, Firewise proposed the program
- Board of Directors approved
- Clearing started and continues and maintenance management must continue to maintain the resource
Goals of the Flood, Wildfire, and Wildlife Habitat Program

- Reduce wildfire potential
- Improve wildlife habitat diversity
- Reduce flooding potential
What are the Programs Goals?

1. Safety for LIFE First!
   Residents, staff, and others

2. Protect property SECOND!
   Residents homes, CA buildings

3. Manage the common areas to reduce the potential for damage by flooding and wildfire and develop a diverse wildlife habitat.

   Habitat Goal: Closed Canopy Hardwood Forest with Mid & Low Canopy.
Sun City Texas Firewise Organization

Firewise Group – Subcommittee of Emergency Management Committee

- HIZ Evaluation Work Group
- Education Work Group
- Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew
- CWPP/Re-certification Work Group
Communications

We use many different ways to reach residents.
Communications

- Weekly CA Communicator – weekly
- Trumpet Newsletter – monthly
- Sun Rays - monthly
- HIZ Evaluations – as requested
- Town Hall - annual
- Wildfire Preparedness Day - annual
Partners
Resources

General materials applicable in the US Wildlands/Urban Interface (WUI)

- NFPA Codes and Standards (nfpa.org)
  - NFPA 1141 – Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas
  - NFPA 1144 – Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire
- Firewise website (firewise.org)
- Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) (http://disastersafety.org/)
- International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) ‘Ready, Set, Go’ (.iafc.org)
- USDA Forest Service – Jack D. Cohen, Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory (firelab.org/)
- Other materials especially those found in internet searches
- Training Workshops

Regional and State materials

- State Forest Services
- State specific statutes and regulations
Gutter Eating Tree!

We find many unusual features around houses and sometimes are asked for solutions!
Create Your Own Program

- Research your community
  - Your hazards
  - Your resources
  - Your partners
- Develop your beginning plan
- Let the plan evolve
Where Does Firewise Fit?

- Should not stand alone!
- Combine with other community management goals
- It is an EDUCATION process

Our program has been the result of working with other advisory committees, staff, and Board of Directors to build a management program where Firewise is an important part.
Sun City’s Approach

- What areas of management does your community have?
- Are the areas related?
- Can they be merged?
- What resources are available?
  - Firewise resources
  - Volunteers
  - Staff
  - Consultants
  - Contractors
Resource Sources

The amount of material is overwhelming.

My community is not the same as those in other parts of the country.

How do I cope?

Don’t ’Give up!

Remember, the materials were developed for the general situation
Assess your local situation

- Do you have a rural heavily forested community, a suburban environment with interspersed areas of forest, or somewhere in between?
- Are there local rules and guidelines that affect what you might consider?
- Do you have volunteer resources that can assist in development and implementation?
- Do you have access to media resources?
- Do you have other factors that might be used?
- Can you get widespread community support?
  - Property Owners
  - Homeowners Association
  - Fire Department
  - Local Government
  - Other stakeholders
- What are your available financial resources?
- Do you have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in place?
Create Your Own Materials

An example of how a national document has been adapted to meet the needs of the area.
NFPA has materials that can be used as resources or even training is available.
Firewise USA

Videos are available from several sources and can help develop programs and materials.
Firewise USA

Materials are available for developers and local government.
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Reducing Wildfire Risk

National groups have materials to help develop information and materials.

Fire Adapted Communities

Every year wildfires burn across the United States. It’s not if, but when your community sees the next threat.
State agencies may also have materials available.
BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE

Environmental Best Management Practices for Wildfire Risk Reduction and Recovery

UNDERSTANDING the RISK of WILDFIRE NEAR AUSTIN'S CREEKS
We Create Our Own Materials

Examples of our materials including a monthly newsletter.
We have adapted this HIZ form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Assessment</th>
<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Resident Name</th>
<th>Property Owner</th>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Mitigation Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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### 1. OVERVIEW OF SURROUNDINGS
- How is the structure positioned in relationship to severe fire behavior?

### 2. CHIMNEY TO EAVES
- Inspect the roof - noncombustible? Shingles missing? Shingles flat with no gaps?

### 3. EAVES TO FOUNDATION
- Attic, eaves, soffit vents and crawl spaces.

### 4. FOUNDATION TO IMMEDIATE LANDSCAPED AREA
- Landscaped (Managed) vegetation - separation distances, maintenance, plant selection. Firewise Landscaping Zones?

### 5. IMMEDIATE LANDSCAPED AREA TO EXTENT OF THE HOME IGNITION ZONE
- Inspect vegetation clearance and crown separation.
Home Ignition Zone Material
Sun City Texas

Our version of the HIZ form to fit the community.
Sun City has several different situations since the developer has changed and at least 6 sets of floor plans have been used. On the left is an early example with mature trees. On the right is a newer example with planted trees. Building materials have changed some but the houses are relatively fire-resistant.
Our comment on Texas weather!
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