

ONION CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025

FINAL

I. Call to Order The regular monthly meeting of the Onion Creek Homeowners Association was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at Onion Creek Club. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Justin Rossi at 6:05 PM.

Board members attending: Martin Benavides, Nydia Castellanos, Darcy Hansen, Liz Jones, Monica Mott, Dick Perrone, Luis Rivas, Justin Rossi, Lori Steiner, and Elliott Tuttle-Yarbrough

Board members absent: Kathy Lahaye and Craig Welborn

Also attending: Nancy Neuse and Jane Redding HOA Office Staff

II. Recognize Visitors/Guests:

Justin welcomed our guests before turning the meeting over to Chris Dibrell, formerly of the Austin Fire Department who delivered an informative presentation regarding Fire Prevention Awareness for our community.

PRESENTATION BY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chris Dibrell , who is now retired, is a 30 year veteran of the Austin Fire Department, serving seven years as a Lieutenant in the Wildfire Division. Mr. Dibrell graduated from Texas A & M University in 1988 with a bachelor of science and a Master of Education from Southwest Texas State University in 1991. Chris served in the United States Army Reserve from 1988 - 2010 and retired as a Major. He served in Belize in 1993 and Baghdad in 2005 and again in 2008. In 2001 he was deployed to New York, World trade Center and in 2002 deployed to Salt Lake City, Winter Olympics. So he brings a career of experience to our presentation tonight.

Chris shared many valuable tips about fire and prevention. For example, flames are not the primary concern, but rather embers from fires are more of a threat as they are carried by the air current and can land anywhere. Rain gutters in homes are particularly susceptible if leaves are allowed to build up in the gutters. Another fact shared is that once the flames reach a height of 8 feet water from the hoses is unable to stop the flames from spreading. Chris promoted a Fire Wise Approach to prevention and mitigation. Fire Wise has a specific protocol required in order to become certified. Onion Creek is not currently certified as Fire Wise.

The printed material that Chris presented at this meeting is attached to this document.

Upon the completion of this presentation, Chris left the meeting and those in attendance wishing to stay for the rest of the meeting turned their chairs back to the head of the room after which the normal meeting continued.

III. Approval of Minutes

Darcy moved to approve the February minutes; Elliott seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IV. Financial Report – Lori Steiner

Total Revenue: The total YTD revenue for March was \$287,412 which is \$30,593 over budget. **Total Operating Expenses:** The total YTD operating expenses for March were \$154,328 which is \$4,380 under budget. The most significant variances to budget were as follows:

Security Service – was 3,983 under budget and **Salaries** was \$2,381 over budget. The net **revenue over expense** YTD was \$133,084.

Cash balances at 03/31/25:

Operating - \$153,784.88
Reserves - \$170,913.90

V. Office Report – Nancy Neuse

Nancy reported that 3 home sales have closed since March 18, 2025, and 10 are currently pending.

The latest delinquency report received from Terri Giles on April 11, 2025 indicates a balance of roughly \$92,599.93 in delinquent assessments of which roughly \$20,000 are due to liens, and \$12,600 are due in fines. The total in fines needs to be verified and Kathy P is currently working to update the fining spreadsheet to reflect those fines that have been reduced as well as those that have been rescinded.

213 residents currently owe some form of fine or dues and the office continues reaching out to these residents via email and phone calls to encourage payment.

There was a discussion about how to more effectively collect on the dues and/or fines. We saw a surge in payments after the article in a previous Newsletter reporting the slow response in residents making their payments and lack of response to our efforts to reach them.

Questions were asked about the fines, the fining policy, and fine forgiveness or reduction. Suggestions were made how to streamline the process.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development & Infrastructure – Elliott Tuttle

- For the next several weeks, overpasses (Stassney this week) are going to be closed because of the I35 expansion project. Elliott is waiting to hear back from the TxDOT about the timelines of reconstruction of the Onion Creek Bridge and the Slaughter Creek bridge. They are starting on the entrance/exits of Onion Creek Bridge and the frontage

roads on both sides of I35. Onion Creek Bridge will not be widened but restructured. The intention is to widen the U-turn lane on the Onion Creek Parkway Bridge such that semi-trucks can make that turn. At present that is not possible.

- The frontage roads from FM1327 north will eventually be closed to traffic, including in front of St. Alban's Church, as the frontage roads are widened. As soon as Elliott receives notice that this work is to begin he will contact the office so the neighborhood can be alerted to this closure.
- If any resident would like a more detailed explanation and map please go to TxDOT.gov and search I-35 Capital Express South Project
- For the next couple of years the I35 construction is going to be a challenge for everyone as TxDOT work continues. When lane closures are required TxDOT is trying to work at night and on weekends when possible as I35 is expanded.

Traffic Control – Marty Benavides

- The traffic controls or pinch points as they are called, have all been approved and it is just a matter of time before the crews begin working. It is anticipated for late April or early May. Monica was given a map of where the pinch points will be in the neighborhood and she has posted that to the website. She will share that with the Social Media committee as well.

Legal Affairs – Darcy Hansen

- We do not have a resolution in place for fining and Darcy will be working on language for this so we can begin fining for delinquent dues.

Also as many may have noticed, today the home at the corner of Pinehurst and Boca Raton, (10805 A and B Pinehurst Dr) was served an eviction notice and interiors of the property were emptied into the front lawn. The tenants (Unit B), were caught completely unawares and have agreed to have all their possessions removed from the premises by midnight tonight. The squatter (Unit A) has 48 hours to collect belongings that have been brought out of the house into the front yard. After that period the balance of the belongings will have to be stored for 30 days, paid for by the brother and sister who were awarded ownership of the property.

There are currently past due HOA assessments on both units of the property, as well as fines and legal fees for Unit A. The board is in the process of determining how much of these fees will be assessed to the new owners.

Government Affairs – Luis Rivas

Legends Way has had problematic runoff from a water ditch at the end of Sharks Lane where it backs up to TDS property. The City of Austin did remediation work on the exit (downstream) side of the ditch but did not make any changes to the culvert at the upstream side which also needs repair. Luis took photos and sent them to his contact at the City asking when the culvert (upstream) side would be repaired but has received no response as of the date of this meeting.

A second issue is that upon entering Legends Way there is a large parcel of land on the right that is owned by Austin Energy that has not been maintained. It has become heavily overgrown and is considered a potential fire hazard. Luis contacted Austin Energy requesting that the property be mowed and though it took 7-10 days it was mowed. The question now is whether Austin Energy will continue to maintain this lot.

Elliott offered that Austin Energy is surveying the power lines from Bluff Springs to Old Lockhart Rd and down Bradshaw Rd, to determine which power poles need to be replaced.

Landscape/Parks – Dick Perrone

- Two nearly dead hackberry trees were removed on Portrush Cove. Both had dropped several limbs and needed to be removed. The crepe myrtle trees at the entrance of Interlachen off River Plantation were trimmed back on both sides of the street adjoining the small wrought iron fence. This area is the responsibility of the HOA. The large oak at the north side of the intersection was trimmed back off the street and Stop sign. The five 3ft x 5ft banners advertising the garage sale were installed for the first time in our neighborhood at our five entrances.
- Marty offered that someone helped themselves to 4 or 5 of the red and yellow arrow directional signs that were used for the Garage Sale and used them at the Cloverleaf neighborhood. Marty suggested that next time we have these signs printed we have "Property of Onion Creek" printed on the signs.

Newsletter, Communications & Events Update and Social– Justin Rossi & Liz Jones

- Communications and event planning are going smoothly. It's been great having **Liz Jones** on board to help us accomplish even more this year!
- I am actively working on a more **streamlined process for sending out communications** to residents more quickly and efficiently. I will keep everyone updated as Kathy L., the office, and I come to an agreement that works best for everyone so we can better serve our community.
- We are excited to have the events calendar created and posted on our social media, including the Facebook HOA page and the newly created Instagram account. We are working directly with Monica Mott and the office to get it up on the website, with clickable links to each event detail.
- Liz interjected that the calendar does have the dates of each of the event but not details. When an event is coming up Monica will have posted on the website a clickable link that one can go to in order to learn the specifics of the event.
- **Movie Night in the Park – March 29, 2025**
 - Our first official *Movie Night in the Park* took place at the park on Legends Way, featuring *The Sandlot*. The event was a big success with a great turnout from residents

of all ages. While we encountered a few challenges due to wind affecting the inflatable screen, the community came together to keep things running smoothly. Special thanks to Cooper Sutherland for providing a generator, and to Moses Calderon for bringing a large outdoor Bluetooth speaker that helped deliver great sound. We'll need to source a stronger fan for the inflatable screen for the next one.

- A huge thank you to Liz Jones, who worked with me to organize the event, as well as all residents who helped and attended.
- Looking ahead, our next Movie Night is scheduled for December at Sullivan Park. Due to its lower elevation, we anticipate fewer wind-related issues, and there is power available on-site—eliminating the need for a generator. Based on a previous non-HOA movie night held there, we expect another strong turnout.
- **OCHOA Community Garage Sale**
 - The Spring Garage Sale was scheduled for the weekend prior to this board meeting. Directional signage was coordinated in advance:
 - Liz Jones arranged signs for Legends Way East of Bradshaw
 - I handled signage for Onion Creek West of Bradshaw, with the help of Jane Redding.
 - Thank you to everyone who helped promote and support this event.
 - The consensus was that the Spring Garage Sale this year was a success. Several guests reported that they had a great experience with the garage sale, selling their goods, with friendly folks attending.
- **Easter Egg Hunt – April 20, 2025**
 - Our 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on April 20. Based on last year's strong turnout, I've been collecting décor, prizes, activity supplies, and eggs throughout the year to ensure we are well-prepared. This year's event will feature two separate hunts—one for younger children and one for older kids—to create a more enjoyable experience for all participants.
 - Liz and Justin each hosted Easter Egg Stuffing Parties at their homes and had lots of assistance.
 - Two separate age groups with two separate areas within Sullivan Park will be set up.
 - Lots of volunteers, and that is great.
- **Newsletter Content**
 - I am currently facing a shortage of article submissions for the community newsletter. I'd like to remind all board members and residents that they are welcome to submit content for consideration. As long as submissions are respectful, relevant to Onion Creek, and well written, they will be considered for inclusion.

- Going forward a link will be available in the newsletter to direct readers to the HOA website for to review minutes of previous meetings.
- **Social Media Report: Liz Jones**
 - We are posting our meeting reports, minutes, and event information on our HOA Instagram and Facebook pages.
 - If you have anything community related you would like to post please inbox the page directly or send an email to Jones.Liz@KW.com
 - I would like your input regarding my freedom to post concerns I have seen in other neighborhood groups. Ex: speeding & lost or roaming pets.
 - Please follow our pages and suggest it to your neighbors. These links will be added to the website. Please share these links with your neighbors.
 - Instagram: @onioncreek.HOA
 - Facebook: @onioncreekHOA

Website Management – Monica Mott

- Monica is trying to make our website more user friendly and hopes to work with the office soon to update the website. If at any time someone finds something that is not working or not working properly please reach out to Monica.

Architectural Control/Rules & Enforcement–Jerry Patterson

- Jerry reported that other than the POD home has been resolved and that we have had some success with on-street parking. The 311 app is very helpful and easily accessible and everyone is encouraged to use this site to report violations.

Security - Craig Welborn

As Craig was unable to attend the meeting Nydia provided the report that Craig submitted.

OCHOA Security Summary, March / April 2025

Shift Reports Summary

- Homeless activity reported around gas stations and HOA office building
- One break-in reported. 3/31 - Coincided with the passing of a family member. Thieves were probably professionals who had seen the obituary.
- Suspicious vehicle, black SUV, shining flashlight into car windows
- Open garage doors are mostly noticed and reported

Crime Stats are available to the public via the Austin Police Department website.

Please refer all Security comments and complaints thru the OCHOA office, via phone, HOA website, or contact the Security Director by email or phone. Residents are encouraged to keep

doors, windows, and other access points locked, utilize quality security cameras and lighting, Lock vehicles and do not leave valuables in your vehicles. If you are observing or are a victim of a crime, call **911**, then call OC Security at **512-940-9269**

Enforce Security

- Monthly Teams meetings with Kevin Taylor from Enforce, all BOD members are welcome
First meeting is May 14, 2025 @ 10:30 am
- Lanny has resigned due to health issues, Damarie will be filling the role

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM by Vice President Justin Rossi . Elliot Tuttle-Yarbrough made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Dick Perrone.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Onion Creek Club.

Immediately after adjournment of this meeting Vice President Rossi announced that the board was being called into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a variance. The Executive Session convened at 8:05 pm.

Recording Secretary- Nancy Neuse

Approved: Lori Steiner, May 20, 2025

Lori Steiner, Secretary

List of Attendees at April 15, 2025 HOA Board Meeting



Date: 4/15

PLEASE PRINT NAME

Cathy Miller
Joan Cooke

JOANN NETTLES

Nancy WHITMAN

KAY ZURKE

Lydia Jagger

JERRY PATTERSON

BEN TRUSKOSKI

David & Jody Hummer

BRUNO ROSSI

PLEASE PRINT NAME

H. CONY

Lorena Urbina

ANN & BILL PIER

Paul & Donna Kreuzer

CHERYL BURAS

ANDREW BROWN

My Personal
**WILDFIRE
ACTION GUIDE**

Ready, Set, Go!



AUSTIN

**WILDFIRE
COALITION**

TRAVIS COUNTY



10th Edition

Ready, Set, Go!



Saving Lives and Property through Advanced Planning and Action

This publication was prepared by the RSG Program with the assistance of the City of Austin and Travis County in cooperation with the International Association of Fire Chiefs; The U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management; and the U.S. Fire Administration.

To learn more about the Ready, Set, Go! Program and its partners, visit:

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

Verify compliance with rules and regulations of your local government and homeowner associations prior to modifying structures or clearing property.

Make sure you know your property boundaries before clearing vegetation. Clearing vegetation on property that does not belong to you could result in criminal violations or civil law suits.

2021 edition 10

Cover photo credit: Jim Nix (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

The wildfire season is a year-round reality in the United States. This strains firefighting resources and emphasizes the need for residents to be proactive and prepared for the threat of wildfire.

Central Texas was placed on the worldwide map as a wildfire prone area with the advent of the 2011 Labor Day fires. In the wake of those devastating fires, which resulted in the loss of many homes, neighbors put in the work to prepare for future threats. Recently, that home hardening effort was tested when the Rolling Pines fire burned 800 acres in nearly the same Bastrop area ravaged by wildfire ten years before. First responders took note of the difference in outcome – zero homes were lost. The leadership of the Austin/Travis County area organized this Action Guide to provide you with the tips and tools you need to prepare for a wildfire threat, have situational awareness when a fire starts, and leave early.

Wildfire is and always has been a natural occurrence. Hills, canyons, grasslands, and forests burn periodically as part of a healthy ecosystem. Wildfires are fueled by dry vegetation, driven by increasing seasonal temperatures, and fanned by dry winds. Wildfires have become increasingly dangerous with the inclusion of built environments in the wildland urban interface (WUI), an area or zone where human development meets or mixes with natural vegetation.

Studies show as many as 80 percent of homes lost to wildfires could have been saved if their owners had followed simple risk-reduction practices. In addition, wildfire related deaths can occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

Proactive mitigation on your property and safe early evacuation can help protect you, your household, and your property. This Action Guide provides tips and tools you need to prepare for wildfire threats, gain situational awareness when a fire starts, and act early as directed by local officials.

Austin and Travis County fire departments take every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildfire. Many wildland managers, including the City of Austin and Travis County, also work to reduce wildfire risk by creating shaded fuel breaks and conducting prescribed burns where appropriate. However, in a major wildfire event, there simply may not be enough fire resources or firefighters to defend every home. These wildfires can directly threaten lives, houses, water supplies, utilities, recreation resources, cultural icons, endangered species, commerce, and transportation systems. As people continue to build houses in high-risk areas, the danger only increases.

Successfully preparing for a wildfire enables you to take personal responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and your property. Remember, all efforts to improve defensible space on your property can decrease property damage and help firefighters with suppression efforts.

The Ready, Set, Go (RSG)! program works in collaboration with existing, local wildfire public education efforts and amplifies the common goal of wildfire preparedness. It is not a question of if, but when, the next major wildfire will occur. Use this Action Guide to help you become wildfire ready!

Visit us at www.wildfirecoalition.org to learn more about being prepared.

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Ready begins with property owners taking action.



Defensible Space and Fire-Resistant Landscaping Can Protect Your Home

If you live next to or within one and a half miles of a densely vegetated area or the WUI, you should provide defensible space to better protect your home. This will create a safer area for firefighters to operate if they have the capacity to defend your home. Creating a buffer zone on your property by removing weeds, dried grass, brush, and other vegetation helps keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk of ignition from flying embers.

Homes near the Wildland Boundary

If your home is within one and a half miles of a natural area, it may be considered part of an ember zone. Keep in mind, embers can destroy homes and neighborhoods or even natural wildlands far from the actual front of the fire. Use the information in this Guide to help you prepare your property.

Consider This

Unmanaged and overgrown vegetation between and around homes increases the risk of wildfire spreading throughout the community and endangering lives and property. Pre-fire planning through mitigation and vegetation management allows firefighters the ability to safely fight wildfires. The work you complete today may save your home and protect a firefighter tomorrow.

Ember Zone

An ember is a small, glowing fragment from a wildfire that is carried by the wind. Embers are light enough to travel long distances and are the primary reason homes ignite, often at significant distances from the actual flame front of a wildfire. Embers ignite materials on and around the home. Embers travel inside your home through vents, windows, and other openings.

Texas Fire Danger

Fire danger consists of the various factors of fuels, weather, topography and risk combined to assess the daily fire potential on an area. Fire danger is "the resultant descriptor of the combination of both constant and variable factors which affect the initiation, spread and difficulty of control of wildfires on an area." The Texas Fire Danger Map is a real-time mapping project designed to display current and forecasted fire danger levels throughout Texas.

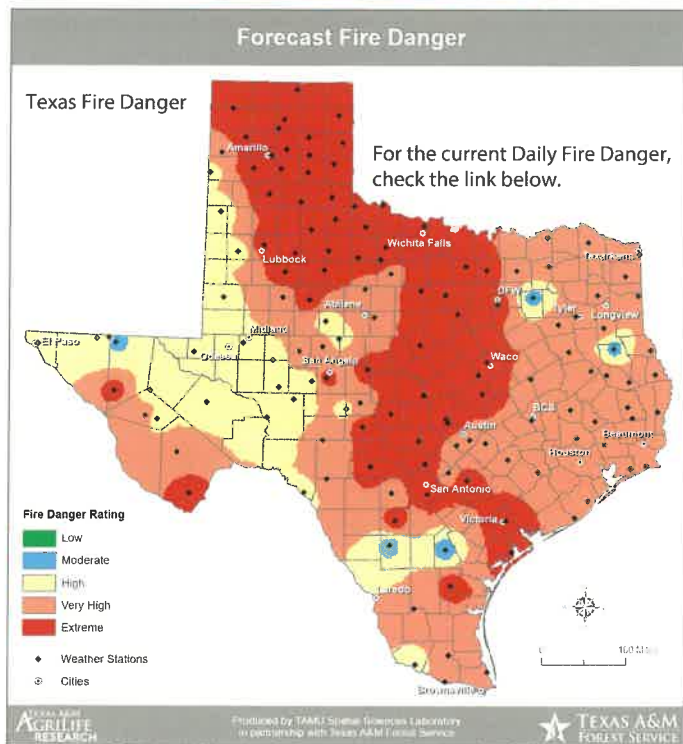
Weather information is provided by remote, automated weather stations. Fire danger maps are produced daily.

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/DailyFireDanger>

Red Flag Warning

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when low humidity, warm temperatures, dry fuels, and strong winds could combine to produce extreme fire behavior. Fires occurring during a Red Flag day can be very dangerous and spread rapidly. You should always follow the instructions provided by your local emergency response organizations and be prepared to take immediate action.

www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/pdf/red-flag-resource-long-.pdf



Ready Make Your Home Fire Resistant - Harden Your Home

Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the structure are what increases the chance of survival in a wildfire. Embers from a wildfire will find the weak spot in your home's fire protection scheme and can easily lodge in small, overlooked, or seemingly inconsequential areas. Look at where fallen leaves form piles on your roof and deck and around your home - these are the areas where embers will collect. Below are some home hardening measures you can take to safeguard your home.



Balconies and Decks

Construct your balconies or decks with **noncombustible materials**, and do not store combustible items underneath them. If there is a fire threat, bring any **furniture** into your home. Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces, or beneath decks and balconies, igniting the material and giving a path for the fire to enter your home. **Remove oak leaves, vines, grasses**, or any other flammable materials from underneath or on your deck. Any wood framed decks should be skirted from the bottom of the deck to the ground.



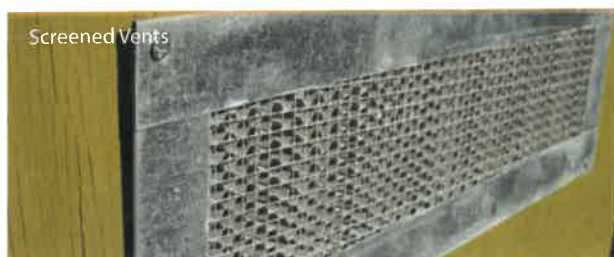
Roofs

Roofs are vulnerable to embers that become lodged and can start a fire, especially anywhere on the roof with litter buildup. **Roof valleys**, open ends of **barrel tiles**, and **rain gutters** are all points of entry. Block off all open spaces, and regularly inspect these areas. Remove any leaves and debris. Use a Class A fire-rated roof covering, such as composition shingles, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking by using a noncombustible underlayment covering to minimize ember intrusion.



Eaves

Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite combustible material. Enclose your eaves with **noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials** to prevent ember intrusion, and regularly clear away debris that collects here.



Vents

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials through open and unscreened vents. Vents in eaves, gables and cornices are particularly vulnerable if not properly screened with wire mesh. Use 1/8-inch **corrosion resistant metal mesh** (hardware cloth) to screen all vents, and check them regularly to remove any debris that collects on the screen.



Walls and Fencing

Combustible siding or fencing provides surfaces and crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Ensure wooden fences do not connect directly to the house. Create a **break in the fence** of at least 5 feet by using a metal gate or noncombustible substitute to connect to the house. Build or remodel with **noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials** (brick, cement board, masonry, or stucco) wherever possible, regularly clear away debris from any crevices, and perform annual upkeep.



Windows and Doors

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Install **weather proofing** around all your doors. Make sure flammable decorations, doormats, wreaths, or flowerbeds, in front of doors are easy movable and brought inside during high fire danger days.

Plants or combustible materials near windows can be ignited from embers and generate radiant heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Wherever possible, use **dual-paned windows with tempered glass**, as they are less likely to break from heat and start internal fires.

Ready Create Defensible Space

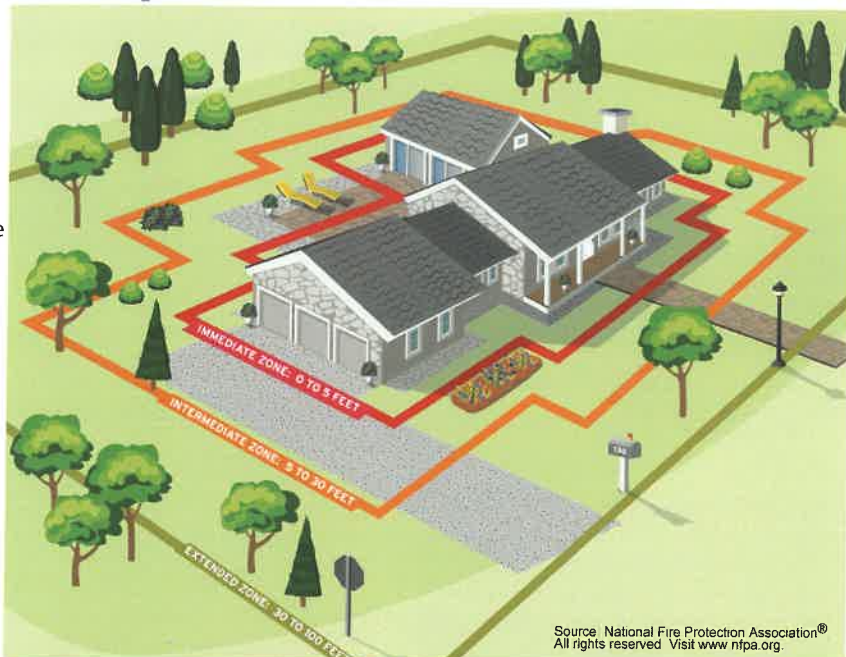
Defensible space is the area around your home on your property in which vegetation, debris, and other combustible fuels have been removed to slow the spread of fire to and from the home.

It can better protect the home from igniting due to an ember storm, direct flame contact, and radiant heat. Defensible space is essential to help protect a structure and create a safer area for firefighters during a wildfire. You should create defensible space by removing weeds, brush, and firewood, and by spacing out vegetation on your property.

Although this might seem like a daunting task, we recommend starting in the Immediate Zone and working your way out.

Collaborate with neighbors and adjacent property owners to address needs outside of your property. Follow the considerations below for each zone and your property can become safer with each step.

Remember to only cut or remove vegetation on your own property.



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IMMEDIATE ZONE

0-5 feet around your home
"Noncombustible"

- Clean roofs and gutters of fallen leaves, branches, and debris that could catch embers.
- Prune away touching or over hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Move all flammable material away from exterior walls – mulch, flammable plants, leaves, and firewood piles – anything that can burn.
- Use hard scape such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch around your home.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks and porches.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

5-30 feet around your home or to property line

- Create vegetation islands to break up the continuity of fuels around your home using native central Texas fire-resistant plants while removing leaf debris from the yard.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns mowed to a height of three inches while native grasses and wildflowers are kept at four inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees six to ten feet up from the ground; do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Ensure the mature tree canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- It is important in central Texas to keep the tree crowns intact to maintain the health and integrity of a continuous tree canopy.
- Move trailers, recreational vehicles, storage sheds, and woodpiles into the Extended Zone.

EXTENDED ZONE

30-100 feet around your home or to property line

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead and down plant and tree material.
- Remove small trees growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation and woodpiles adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Store firewood in this area, keeping it a safe distance from your structure.
- If your property allows, continue this zone out to 200 feet.
- If you have more than 200 feet spacing, consider creating separation from your adjacent neighbor by maintaining a shaded fuel break on your side of the property line.
- Again, it is important in central Texas to keep the tree crowns intact to maintain the health and integrity of a continuous tree canopy.
- In all Zones, maintain compliance with local government and HOA/NA regulations.

Remember the Ember Zone

Embers are burning pieces of airborne material that can be carried more than a mile by the wind. Research points to embers and small flames as the main ways homes ignite in wildfires.



Tour a Wildfire Prepared, **Hardened**, Home

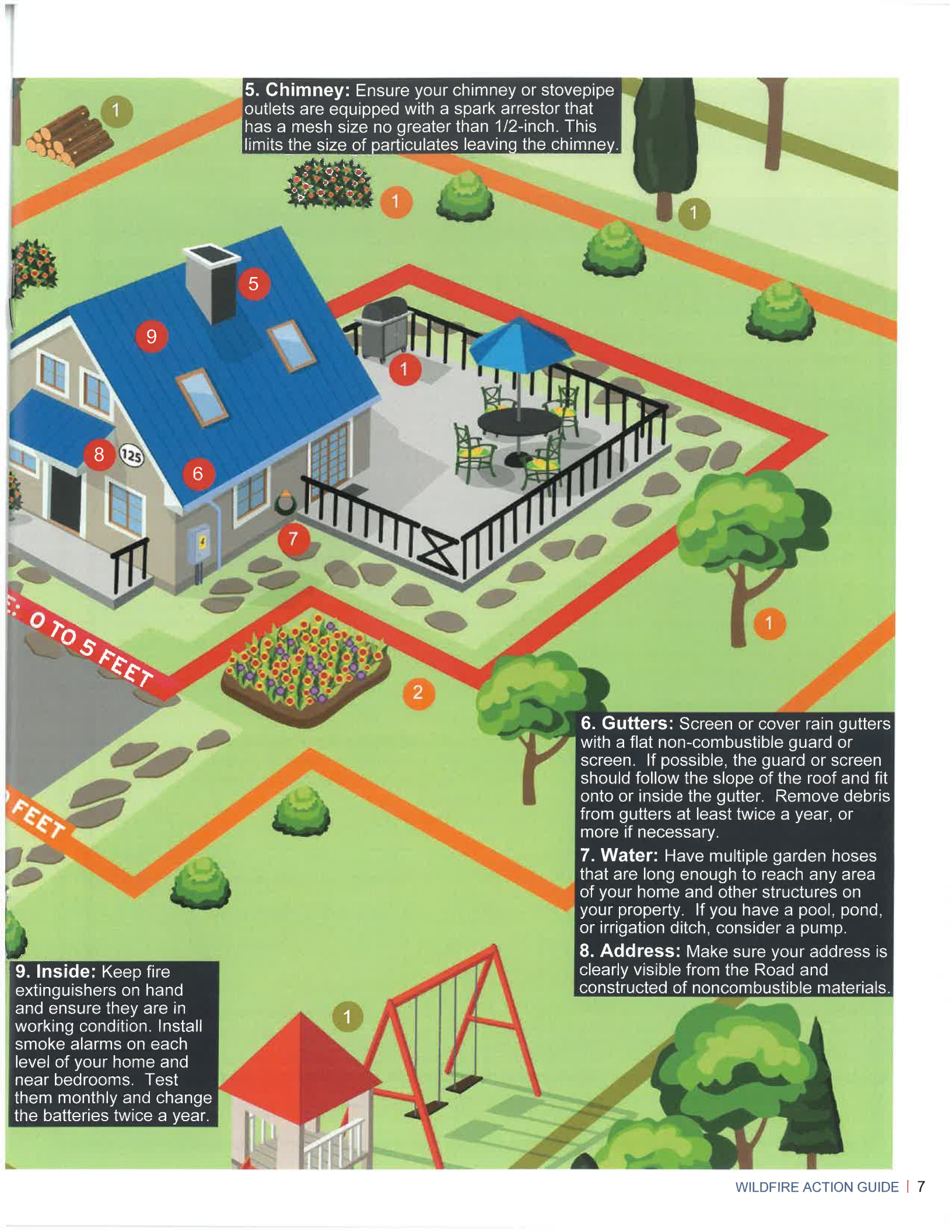
1. Yard: Keep firewood piles, propane tanks, and combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as detached garages, barns, and sheds. Firewood piles should be at least 30 feet away from your house. Prune tree branches within 6-8 feet of the roof and 10 feet away from your chimney. Keep tree canopies closed and limbs trimmed up 6-8 feet off ground, but remove ladder fuels and create vegetation islands.

2. Landscaping: Keep lawns mowed to a height of three inches while native grasses and wildflowers are kept at four inches. Water plants, trees, and lawns to keep them from becoming dry.

4. Driveways: Should be designed to allow emergency vehicles to reach your house. Ensure that all gate openings are wide enough and that trees/shrubs overhanging the road are trimmed back to a minimum of 15 feet to allow emergency vehicles clear access.

3. Garage: Install weather stripping around and under the vehicle access floor. This will reduce the intrusion of embers. If the garage is attached to the home, install a solid door with self-closing hinges between the living area and garage. Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources like hot water heaters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association®.
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5. Chimney: Ensure your chimney or stovepipe outlets are equipped with a spark arrestor that has a mesh size no greater than 1/2-inch. This limits the size of particulates leaving the chimney.

6. Gutters: Screen or cover rain gutters with a flat non-combustible guard or screen. If possible, the guard or screen should follow the slope of the roof and fit onto or inside the gutter. Remove debris from gutters at least twice a year, or more if necessary.

7. Water: Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool, pond, or irrigation ditch, consider a pump.


8. Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the Road and constructed of noncombustible materials.

9. Inside: Keep fire extinguishers on hand and ensure they are in working condition. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Create Your Own Action Plan

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use these checklists to help you get Ready and Set with situational awareness in the threat of wildfire.

Ready Get Ready

- ☐ Create an Action Plan that includes evacuation meeting locations and communication plans - rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of all pets and large animals, which may include horses and livestock, in your plan.
- ☐  **WarnCentralTexas.org**
The Capital Area Council of Governments and its partners are pleased to offer an emergency notification system to residents of Central Texas. Registering with WarnCentralTexas allows local officials to contact their communities by phone, email, and/or text during times of disasters or public safety events. www.warncentraltexas.org/alerts
- ☐ Designate an emergency meeting location outside the wildfire hazard area.
- ☐ Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- ☐ Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your household how to use them.
- ☐ Ensure that everyone in your household knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to use them.
- ☐ Assemble a Go Kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle. Check this page for a list of recommended emergency supplies.
- ☐ Check this page for a list of recommended emergency supplies.
- ☐ Have a portable radio so you can stay updated on the fire and weather emergency announcements.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST FOR GO KIT

The American Red Cross recommends every household have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit redcross.org/get-help.

- ☐ Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food for household members (3 day supply).
- ☐ First aid kit and sanitation supplies, including toilet paper and baby wipes.
- ☐ Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- ☐ An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks.
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions, and medications.
- ☐ Important household member documents and contact numbers, including insurance documents.
- ☐ Map marked with evacuation routes. It is important to have a printed map in case your phone dies. It may also be easier to see the printed map than a phone screen under smokey conditions.
- ☐ Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- ☐ Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- ☐ Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Set Prepare and Be Aware

☐ Monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. Check your local fire department or emergency management websites and social media accounts for wildfire information. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, including Red Flag Warnings in your area.

☐ Alert household and neighbors.

☐ Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.

☐ Ensure your Go Kit includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and drinking water.

☐ Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and ensure your household members and pets are accounted for and ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

☐ Close all windows and doors.

☐ Remove all shades and curtains from windows and ensure all blinds remain open, unless you have metal blinds. Close all metal blinds.

☐ Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.

☐ Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning units.

☐ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house in smoky conditions

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

☐ Make sure combustible items are a safe distance away from the exterior of the house (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) If you have time, place these items inside your garage or home where they will not become a hazard.

☐ Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.

☐ Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.

☐ Leave exterior lights on.

☐ Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.

☐ Have a ladder ready to use to cover attic vents. Use pre-cut plywood or commercial seals. Use the same for ground vents. Do so in a safe manner, and only if time permits.

☐ Patrol your property and extinguish small fires, if you can do so safely, until you leave.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

☐ If you have become trapped and cannot evacuate, call 9-1-1 immediately.

☐ Stay in your home, sheltering away from walls, until the fire passes or emergency personnel tell you differently. Follow their instructions and commands.

☐ Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.

☐ Wear long sleeves, long pants, and a bandana made of natural fibers, such as cotton.

☐ Stay hydrated.

☐ Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire. Remember, if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside. Be prepared.

☐ Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.

☐ Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

☐ After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks, or embers if you are able to safely do so. Check the attic as well.

Go! Act Early

Leaving early gives you and your household members the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment. Be sure to follow the direction of your local authorities.

WHEN TO LEAVE

Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

Go to a predetermined, low-risk area such as a relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.

HOW TO GET THERE Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE

Take your Go Kit containing your household members' and pet's necessary items.

REMEMBER THE 8 P'S!

- ☐ People & Pets
- ☐ Pictures & Photo Albums
- ☐ PC's
- ☐ Papers (important)
- ☐ Prescriptions & Medications (for your pets too)
- ☐ Plastics (credit cards)
- ☐ Personal Devices (phones and chargers)
- ☐ Passports & IDs



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My Personal **WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN**

Write up your Wildfire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your household can see it. Rehearse it with your household.

During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Out-of-Area Contact _____ Phone: _____

Work _____

School _____

Other _____

EVACUATION ROUTES

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

WHERE TO GO

LOCATION OF GO KIT(S)

NOTES



My Personal WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

Ready

Get Ready

- ☒ Registering with WarnCentralTexas for phone, email, and/or text during times of disasters or public safety events. www.warncentraltexas.org/alerts
- ☒ Dispose of or relocate combustible material from around your home.
- ☒ Trim trees and bushes allowing ample space between your home and landscape vegetation.
- ☒ Arrange your Go Kit with prescription medication, emergency supplies, important documents, and other essential items.

Set

Prepare and Be Aware

- ☒ Make sure you have your Go Kit on hand in an accessible place.
- ☒ Alert household and neighbors of your action plan. Ensure your household members and pets are accounted for and ready to leave.
- ☒ Monitor local fire weather conditions and listen to emergency notification systems.

Go!

Act Early

- ☒ Get your Go Kit and leave well before the threat approaches using a planned, accessible route.
- ☒ Stay aware of the situation and follow your plan.
- ☒ Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation and re-entry processes.



wildlandfireRSG.org



The key to reducing wildfire risk is to maintain a defensible space around your home or structures.
Recommendations are based on Good, Better, Best practices.

Resource Sites:

- **BRUSH COLLECTION:** [Residential Brush Collection | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:** [Conservation Easement Program \(traviscountytexas.gov\)](#)
- **EMERGENCY ALERTS:** [www.WarnCentralTexas.org](#) & [WatchDuty.org](#)
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT COMPLIANCE:** [The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan \(BCCP\) Permit and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve \(BCP\) Infrastructure Compliance Toolkit and Interactive Maps](#)
- **FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency [Mobile Products | FEMA.gov](#) a personalized disaster resource
- **FREE HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENTS:** [Senior Home Safety Program | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **FREE SMOKE DETECTORS:** [Red Angels Program | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **GOATS FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:** [Goats on the Trail - The Trail Conservancy](#)
- **IBHS:** Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety [Disastersafety.org](#)
- **MONITOR WEATHER:** [Texas Weather Connection](#)
- **NFPA:** National Fire Protection Association [Wildfire Hazards & Mitigation | NFPA](#)
- **PREVENTION & AWARENESS OF TEXAS OAK WILT:** [Texasoakwilt.org](#)
- **PROPERTY BOUNDARIES:** before clearing vegetation [Travis County Appraisal District](#)
- **RESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE:** [Residential Design & Compatibility Standards | AustinTexas.gov](#) & [Private Restrictive Covenants, City Zoning Laws, and City Permit Applications | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **TREE REGULATIONS** Before cutting trees: [Trees on Residential Property | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **WATER WILDLAND CONSERVATION:** [Wildland Conservation | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **WATERSHED PROTECTION:** [Watershed Protection | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- **WUI CODE:** Proximity Class/Zones, Maps, Codes, regulations [Wildland-Urban Interface Code | AustinTexas.gov](#)

Before a Wildfire:

- Plan and practice different evacuation routes and designate a safe emergency meeting location.
- Remember the **8 P's:** **P**eople, **P**ets, **P**apers (important documents) **P**rescription medication, **P**ersonal devices/electronics, **P**assports/ identification, **P**lastics (debit, credit, insurance cards) **P**hoto albums

In the event of a Wildfire:

- Act Early and Evacuate! Do not wait for evacuation orders
- If can be done safely, place a ladder near the roof line, visible from the street for firefighters to use.
- Connect water hoses to put out spot fires and replenish any water supplies.
- Avoid ember traps, remove object 5 feet from the structure (small propane tanks, door mats and lawn furniture)
- Move stored cars, RVs, lawnmowers, tractors that are parked near home on grass or brush.
- Do not launch drones around a wildfire. Drones are dangerous to aircraft assisting in containment.

***Disclaimer:** The purpose of a Firewise Advisement is to offer proactive suggestions to reduce the risk of losses from fire/wildfire. It is the dwelling owner's responsibility to maintain the structure and property. Fires are unpredictable and often uncontrollable. Even if all recommendations are followed, Firewise makes no guarantee that property will be spared from the effects of fire and assumes no liability or responsibility for damages or loss arising from fire to any property.*

Please share the SIZE experience with your neighbors and friends on social media using #HomeSafeHome



Sign up for a **FREE**
Wildfire Home Evaluation
by using this QR code



Visit the AFD Wildfire website
at **ATX Wildfire HUB**
or use this QR code

