

Being a Fireplug for NWACA

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Firewise Fireplug?
 - a. A neighbor who wants to minimize the threat of wildfires in the neighborhood
 - b. Someone willing to coordinate communication and education efforts about the Firewise Program for their immediate area (street, cul-de-sac, etc.)
2. What is the Firewise Program?
 - a. Effort being run by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) Wildfire Division, using a national program of materials from the National Fire Protection Association
 - b. NWACA is working with Capt. Josh Anderson, who is the AFD Firewise Program Director.
 - c. See the reference list for web sites and other resources with more information; links and files will be maintained on the NWACA web site as this work proceeds
3. What do I need to know to be a Fireplug?
 - a. Fundamental background on wildfires, how they spread (especially by embers), good practices to make homes fire-adapted, minimizing risk to people, homes, and landscape
 - b. Who to contact for more information within NWACA and at AFD Wildfire Division
4. How do I get started in my immediate neighborhood?
 - a. Identify the area you will care for (generally along one street), and discuss that with the Chair of the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee, Joyce Statz (joyce.statz@gmail.com or 512-346-5228)
 - b. Gather contact information for all the neighbors in your area (address, phone, email), so that you can stay in touch with them
 - c. Working with the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee, develop your approach to educating all neighbors and getting them involved in becoming wildfire-resilient
 - d. Track meeting attendance and all other activities done to minimize the risk of wildfire, to help with applying to be a Firewise Community.
5. What's the big picture for NWACA?

Austin/Travis County Joint
Wildfire Task Force

Austin Fire Department
Wildfire Division

Coalition of Austin
Firewise Leaders/Coaches

NWACA Wildfire
Prevention Committee

NWACA Fireplugs
(1 per 20-40 homes)

- We're getting individual neighborhoods to become Firewise Communities, demonstrating that their homes are fire-adapted and defensible during a wildfire.
- AFD is building a coalition of area wildfire leaders throughout Austin to share information with each other about what's working in their area and where they need help. AFD coordinates with the Texas Forest Service and the Joint Wildfire Task Force