

# 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 Portie, who is the AFD Firewise Program Director and Lt. Josh Anderson, who is the neighborhood coordinator and does presentations and training for us.
  - 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 minimize damage to landscape and homes
  - 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 (we call it a pod), and discuss that with Joyce Statz ([joyce.statz@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.statz@gmail.com) or 512-346-5228)
  - b. Gather contact information for all the neighbors in your pod (address, phone, email), so that you can stay in touch with them
  - c. Working with Joyce, develop your approach to meeting your neighbors (handouts, meeting, etc.); set a meeting date for your neighbors and hold an initial education meeting with an AFD or NWACA rep about being Firewise.
  - d. Track meeting attendance and all other activities done to be Firewise (which helps later with Firewise Program tracking).
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 organizing somewhat like Neighborhood Watch, with street-local leaders (fireplugs), coordinated by the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee, which monitors the entire NWACA area
- 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