



38th Annual Stillwater Arts Festival

Saturday, April 18, 2015
and
Sunday, April 19, 2015

Downtown Stillwater on Main Street
between 7th and 10th Avenues.
Admission and parking are free.

Organized and presented
by the City of Stillwater

fall 2014

For the most up-to-date information about meetings, events, entertainment and activities, go online to <http://stillwater.org/calendar> or call 405-372-0025.
Be sure to sign up for Be Informed Stillwater and customize how you receive information at <https://stillwater.bbcportal.com>.

CITY OF **stillwater** *fall 2014 newsletter*



Firewise Tips Inside

Stillwater largest city in Oklahoma to become 'Firewise'

As a result of the Stillwater Fire Department's dedicated efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, Stillwater recently earned the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

Stillwater is now the largest Oklahoma community to be declared "Firewise."

Communities in the program complete a risk assessment to identify areas that are most at risk in the event of a wildfire. According to Fire Marshal Trent Hawkins, Stillwater has a low to slightly moderate risk, which means homes have a fair to good chance of surviving a wildfire, and only minor steps are necessary for improvement.

He added that Stillwater is located in an area known as the wildland urban interface, which means it has flammable structures built in areas with narrow roads and heavy vegetation that create conditions suitable for wildfires. The interface cannot be defined as a geographic location, but a set of conditions that can occur anywhere.

"We are proud of our community's commitment to fire safety," Hawkins said. "We will continue to look for innovative ways to raise our residents' awareness of the dangers of wildfires and how they can make their homes and families safer."

Being Firewise is a community effort, and every resident can help make a difference. If you would like to schedule an inspection of your property and receive suggestions on how to improve your home's ability to withstand a fire, call Hawkins at 405-533-8554.

The Firewise Communities Program is a collaborative outreach effort to help individuals and communities be ready should a wildfire become a threat. Many communities like Stillwater are located in areas considered "wildland urban interface" areas. Flammable structures built in areas with narrow roads and heavy vegetation create conditions suitable for wildfires, according to the Oklahoma Forestry Services.

One of the main benefits of this program is that it allows communities like Stillwater to provide education to its residents and firefighters to identify areas at risk and simple mitigation tactics residents can complete to help protect homes from fires. It also helps firefighters adjust their strategy to avoid increased risk.

FIREWISE TOOLKIT

»»» FIREWISE / TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

FIREWISE CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS

WILDFIRE DOESN'T HAVE TO BURN everything in its path. In fact, cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to help minimize damage and loss.

The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- ☐ Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- ☐ Remove dead vegetation from under your deck and within 10 feet of the house.
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- ☐ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- ☐ Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks, dry vegetation) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- ☐ Wildfire can spread to tree tops. If you have trees on your property, prune so the lowest branches are six to 10 feet from the ground.
- ☐ Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- ☐ Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- ☐ Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- ☐ Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- ☐ Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at www.firewise.org.

Stillwater Fire Department receives a plaque indicating it is a member of the Firewise Communities Program.

Left to right: Stillwater Mayor John Bartley,
Stillwater Fire Marshal Trent Hawkins,
Oklahoma Firewise Coordinator Steve Mattax and
Stillwater Fire Chief Tom Bradley



Dear Stillwater Citizens:



Stillwater's recognition as one of 12 new Firewise communities in Oklahoma shows a growing dedication to

fire safety not just in our City, but also across the state. The fact that Stillwater is the largest city to receive this distinction also shows a strong initiative from our citizens to be more prepared for fire disasters.

I commend the members of the Stillwater Fire Department for their forward thinking and commitment to helping Stillwater become a recognized Firewise community. Their efforts to educate the public about Firewise have better prepared our citizens in the event of a fire.

Citizens are encouraged to look at the facts about this program and see what steps you can take to make your property Firewise. You will find a number of tips in this newsletter about safe construction and landscaping practices.

While fires are unpredictable, recommendations from the Firewise program can help us anticipate fires and better protect our property.

Sincerely,

Dan Galloway

DAN GALLOWAY
City Manager
dgalloway@stillwater.org

CITY OF
stillwater

Making Your Property Firewise

Simple tips to help protect your home from wildfires

Guide to Landscaping

The primary goal for Firewise landscaping is fuel reduction — limiting the level of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding the home and increasing the moisture content of remaining vegetation. This includes the entire 'home ignition zone' which extends up to 200 feet in high hazard areas.



TIP 1 Use grass and driveways as fuel breaks from the house.

Use the Zone Concept

Zone 1 is the 30 feet adjacent to the home and its attachments; Zone 2 is 30 to 100 feet from the home; Zone 3 is 100 to 200 feet from the home.

Zone 1 (All Hazard Areas): This well-irrigated area encircles the structure and all its attachments (wooden decks, fences and boardwalks) for at least 30 feet on all sides.

Zone 2 (Moderate and High Hazard Areas): Plants in this zone should be low-growing, well-irrigated and less flammable.

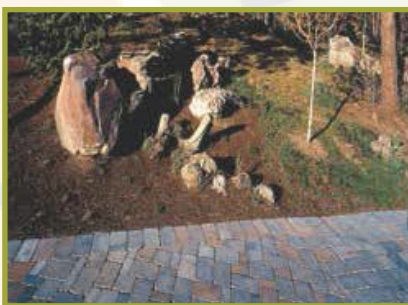
Zone 3 (High Hazard Areas): Thin this area, although less space is required than in Zone 2. Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees. Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris. Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies are not touching.



TIP 2 Use faux brick and stone finishes and high moisture content annuals and perennials.

Maintaining the Firewise Landscape

- ❖ Keep trees and shrubs pruned six to 10 feet from the ground.
- ❖ Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- ❖ Mow the lawn regularly and dispose of cuttings and debris promptly.
- ❖ Store firewood away from the house.
- ❖ Maintain the irrigation system regularly.
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding vegetative clearance, debris disposal and fire safety requirements for equipment.



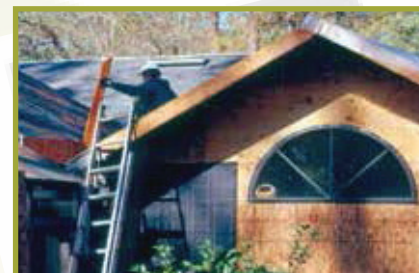
TIP 3 The use of pavers and rocks make for a pleasing effect and creates a fuel break.

Guide to Construction

Use Rated Roofing Material

Roofing material with a Class A, B or C rating is fire-resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading. Examples include:

- ❖ Composition shingles
- ❖ Metal
- ❖ Clay
- ❖ Cement tiles



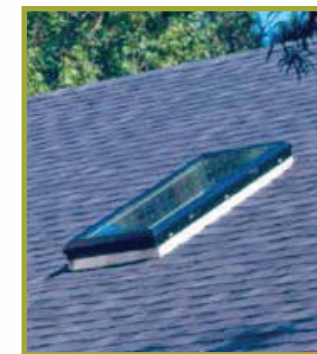
TIP 4 The roof is the most important element of the home. Use rated roofing material.

Use Fire-Resistant Building Materials on Exterior Walls

Examples include:

- ❖ Cement
- ❖ Plaster
- ❖ Stucco
- ❖ Masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)

(While vinyl is difficult to ignite, it can fall away or melt when exposed to extreme heat.)



TIP 5 Use glass skylights; plastic will melt and allow embers into the home.

Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass

Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. For skylights, glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass.

Enclose Eaves, Fascias, Soffits and Vents

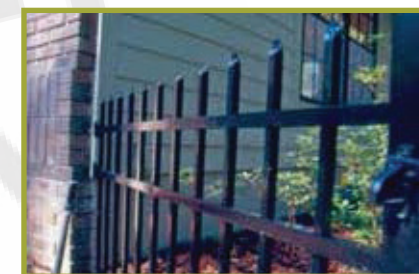
'Box' eaves, fascias, soffits and vents, or enclose them with metal screens. Vent openings should be covered with a 1/8" metal screen.



TIP 6 Cover openings with a 1/8" metal screen to block fire brands (burning wood) and embers from collecting under the home or deck.

Protect Overhangs and Attachments

Remove all vegetation and other fuels from around overhangs and other attachments (room additions, bay windows, decks, porches, carports and fences). Box in the undersides of overhangs, decks and balconies with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials. Fences constructed of flammable materials like wood should not be attached directly to the house.



TIP 7 Use nonflammable fencing if attached to the house, such as metal.

Anything attached to the house (decks, porches, fences and outbuildings) should be considered part of the house. These act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

- ❖ If a wood fence is attached to the house, separate the fence from the house with a masonry or metal barrier.
- ❖ Decks and elevated porches should be kept free of combustible materials and debris.
- ❖ Elevated wooden decks should not be at the top of a hill. Consider a terrace.