

OVERLOOK ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 422
Leander, Texas 78646-0422

Firewise Action Plan

Overlook Estates is a community which consist of 49 approximately 1 acre lots of which 43 have permanent residences on them. Most residences have partially landscaped yards with the remaining part of the property in its native form. The Homeowners Association has established a Firewise Committee whose members consist of Dan Wight, Dimas Diaz and Maria Fulton. With the current drought that we are experiencing in central Texas, we are very concerned with the fire potential caused by the volume of Cedar trees, brush, tall grass, and overgrown landscaping. Our intention is to raise awareness within our neighborhood through education, literature, training and workdays.

Completed Actions for Initial Firewise Application

- 1. Met with representative of the Leander Fire Department** to discuss the findings from the wildfire risk assessment done on September 23, 2011.
- 2. Conducted a wildfire risk mitigation demonstration** at the home of Dimas Diaz designed to educate residents and the general public about the importance of adopting Firewise methods in landscaping around the home. Several trees were removed that posed a danger to the residence. Other fire ladders and potential hazards were pointed out and mitigation procedures were demonstrated. In attendance were the Leander Fire Department, the Texas Forest Service, residents and local media to film the event.
- 3. Conducted a Firewise educational event** at Leander Fire Station #3 on October 4, 2011. The presentation was conducted by Captain Joshua Davis of the Leander Fire Department and Lexi Maxwell of the Texas Forest service. It was a PowerPoint presentation of about 2 hours in length followed by a Q&A session and was attended by about 30 residents of Overlook Estates.
- 4. Distributed a Firewise Educational packet** to all residents which contained the following Firewise Literature:
 - Firewise Guide to Landscaping
 - Communities Compatible with Nature
 - Be Firewise around your home
 - People working together
 - Texas Forest Service – Ready, Set, Go! Plan

5. Conducted a brush removal program throughout the neighborhood. The Overlook Estates HOA hired a local Tree company to come in and dispose of brush that had been allowed to accumulate on homeowner's property. Property owners also limbed back tree branches away from structures. Each property owner was provided the first 30 minutes free of charge. The participation was overwhelming. Through this program we eliminated virtually all brush and dead vegetation in the neighborhood. This project entailed over 67 man hours utilizing a 15" chipper with disposal truck.

6. The Firewise application is being submitted.

2012 Firewise Action Plan

1. Maintain the Firewise Committee as a subcommittee of the HOA.

2. Address concerns found during the wildfire assessment by LFD

3. Create a Firewise Committee page on our HOA website which is slated for a complete overhaul in 2012

4. Continue to distribute Firewise educational material on an annual basis.

5. Conduct at least one educational seminar each year that includes guest speakers that are part of the firefighting community.

6. Conduct one or more cleanup days. Since we removed most of the existing brush from the neighborhood this year, our emphasis will shift towards creating a break in the fuel ladder by limbing up Cedar trees from the ground as well as further mitigate existing threats around homes.

7. File the necessary annual renewal forms and comply with future Firewise mandates.