

July 1, 2018

Dear Ancala Homeowner,

Working in conjunction with the Scottsdale Fire Department, it is our goal to become a certified Firewise USA™ community in 2018. The Firewise USA™ program has empowered neighbors since 2002 to work together in reducing their wildfire risk, teaching people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encouraging neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent damage and losses. Participation in the program can be attained by any community committed to reducing risks from wildland fire. The benefit of becoming a Firewise community is not only the creation of a safer environment for you, your neighborhood and fire fighters, but being a certified Firewise community may lower your home insurance premium if accepted by your insurance carrier. ***With minimal rainfall this year, fire events in the valley are reported to be even more likely. There is no time like the present to become a safer community.***

We realize there has been confusion about what you can or cannot maintain when it comes to Natural Area Open Space (NAOS) pertaining to fire safety. The Scottsdale Fire Code and safety comes first. **Ancala's governing documents require that all Property Owners create a defensible space around structures on their Lot to prevent fire damage and to allow firefighters the ability to reach your property in the case of an emergency.** Each owner is required to create a well-maintained, live vegetation zone to prevent damage to structures in case of wildland fires. This "defensible space" acts as a fire break, and should contain only small brush and ground cover to prevent a continuous path of flammable materials leading to structures. Below are defensible space guidelines to help assist you in meeting this requirement.

Scottsdale Fire Code & Firewise Requirements

<i>Defensible Space</i>	Initial Defensible Space	Thin & Remove Dead & Fallen	Total to Maintain
Existing Homes	15 ft.	15 ft.	30 ft.
Walls (on lots & perimeter)	5 ft.	15 ft.	20 ft. (+ backyard)
Roadways	10 ft.	20 ft.	30 ft.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This is a "Fuel Management" program designed to properly maintain plant life in the Defensible Space.2. The Vegetation Maintenance areas (Defensible Space) may be increased by the Fire Marshal based on terrain and grade to provide adequate defensible space (up to 100 feet).3. Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the Defensible Space Zones or outside of the building envelope: Remove any combustible construction waste/material.			

Take These Actions Now

- Thin vegetation and remove dead and down plant material that is within 10 feet of the road.
- Clear all brush within 5 feet of structures and perimeter walls.
- Thin vegetation and remove dead and fallen plant material within the next 15 feet of your perimeter wall/structures (total of 20 feet).
- Remove all invasive plants such as desert broom, red brome grass, buffel grass, tamarisk and fountain grass.
- Trim all tree limbs to a minimum of 5 feet from the ground.
- Trim vegetation so canopy's do not connect (shrubs should not touch tree limbs)
- Trim trees overhanging the street to a minimum of 12 feet above the street starting at the concrete curb.

Before



After



Before



After



Complete Defensible Space Clean Up By September 30, 2018

We understand that you or your landscaper may not be experienced in defensible space guidelines which is why we have listed several names below referred to us as potential contractors you can use for this service. Please be aware it is your responsibility to vet these vendors before contracting with them.

Luis Ochoa
BP Landscape
602-721-3808
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Katie Pock
Pock Landscape Solutions
623-879-7547
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Mike Robison
Sustain Scape
480-584-4456
mike@sustainscapeaz.com
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The Scottsdale Fire Department will review all Lots for this compliance by November 2018. If the Fire Department finds that your property is not compliant you will receive notification.

Please note that washes and other open space areas that are part of your property are your responsibility.

Please visit our homepage at www.ancalahoa.org for more Firewise information.

Respectfully,

Sandra McCarrell, Executive Director
Ancala Homeowners Association