



# Town of Cave Creek Newsletter

## FIRE SAFETY EDITION: SUMMER 2021



### STAGE TWO FIRE RESTRICTIONS UNDERWAY

#### STAGE TWO FIRE RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

The Town of Cave Creek is currently under Stage Two Fire Restrictions. This means spark-generating activities are prohibited, or require a permit from Town Hall and a pre-site inspection before work begins, to ensure protection of the Town. Familiarize with the Town's Fire Restrictions online or in print (available at Town Hall). Projects with a current Building Permit already underway may call-in this fire safety inspection under their current permit number, prior to conducting any spark-generating activities.

#### Prohibited under Stage Two Fire Restrictions:

- Ignition Driven Model Rockets
- Consumer Fireworks
- Flame based weed removal
- Tiki Torches and other devices which omit open flames
- Wood burning outdoors: for cooking, warming, or otherwise
- Smoking beyond designated areas near combustible flash fuels

#### Fire Safety Permit and Site Pre-Inspections are Required for:

- Welding
- Grinding
- Professional Fireworks
- Cutting Steel

#### UPCOMING EVENTS: FIRE SAFETY Q&A

The Town of Cave Creek will be hosting several opportunities for the public to meet with community fire representatives to inquire about fire service and prevention in our town:

June 22<sup>nd</sup> At the Foothills Library, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
July 13<sup>th</sup> At the Foothills Library, 8:30 am - 10:30 am  
July 17<sup>th</sup> At the Foothills Library, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> At the Holland Center, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For more information on these follow  
Town of Cave Creek  
News & Announcements  
[www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/News](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/News)

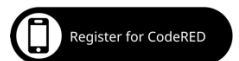
#### CAVE CREEK CODE RED: REGISTER NOW

Register for Emergency Alerts directly from the Town of Cave Creek by scanning the QR code with the camera function on your phone, or visiting: [www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED)

Don't have a smart phone or computer? Visit the library or come to Town Hall for assistance getting registered for notifications to be sent directly to your phone



**Cave Creek**  
**CodeRED**  
Fire + Emergency Alerts



[www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/FireSafety](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/FireSafety)

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## WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE AREA (WUI)

Did you know Cave Creek is considered to be a Wildland Urban Interface Area?

A Wildland Urban Interface Area is a zone of transition between wilderness and land developed by human activity—an area where a built environment meets or intermingles with a natural environment. Structures in these areas are considered to be at greater risk of wildland fires. With increased drought, invasive species on the rise, and flash-fuels, it takes a community effort to protect our natural environment and our homes from the possible outbreak of wildland fires.



\* Example of good defensible space.

## CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME

### IMMEDIATE ZONE: 5 FEET AROUND STRUCTURES

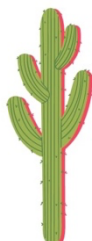
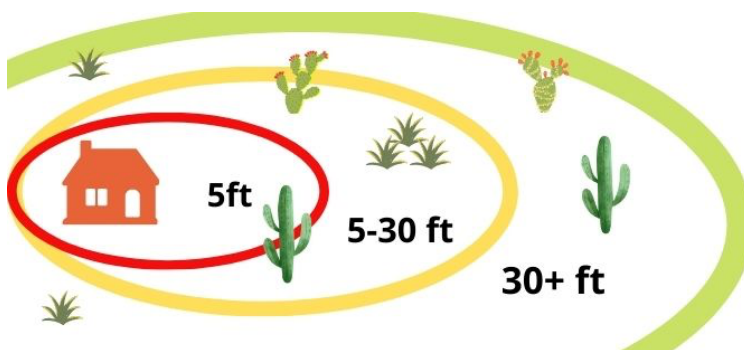
Long standing residents and newcomers alike are requested to clear a safe and defensible area five feet around structures on their property, from the furthest attached exterior point of their home or structure. Clear gutters and this area of flammable materials: stacked wood, weeds, tall grasses, dead shrubs, or any other combustibles.

### INTERMEDIATE ZONE: 5-30 FEET FROM STRUCTURES

5-30 feet from the furthest exterior part of the home is the *Intermediate Zone*. Integrating breaks and clearing space in this zone can influence and help to decrease fire behavior. Find in-depth details for clearing this area at [www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace).

### EXTENDED ZONE: 30-100 FEET FROM DWELLINGS

- Remove dry grasses and dead shrubs.
- Don't let flammable plant material or garbage accumulate in heaps or piles.
- Remove dead plant and tree material (including packrats nests) from the property.
- Clear flammable vegetation from surrounding structures.



Did you know that clearing a 6-foot diameter around the base of saguaros can help protect them against wildland fires? Traditionally desert fires smolder. With the encroachment of invasive species these flash fuels instead burn and devastate ancient saguaros. Remove nearby dead shrubs, invasive weeds and tall grasses to aid these gentle giants.



[www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace)

# TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER



## FOLLOW THE CAMPFIRE ICON

On the Town of Cave Creek's home page follow the campfire icon to track fire restrictions and the current National Fire Danger Rating for the region.

## RED FLAG WARNING



Are you familiar with Red Flag Warning days? We have them in Cave Creek; Red Flag Warnings mean low humidity, high heat, and winds make for increased risk of fire and turbulent wildfire conditions.



## NATIONAL DANGER RATING: EXTREME

When EXTREME, fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the VERY HIGH danger class. Know the danger.

## WHISPERING HILLS BECOMES FIRST FIREWISE USA COMMUNITY IN CAVE CREEK TOWN LIMITS

On May 19<sup>th</sup> Whispering Hills became the Town of Cave Creek's first Firewise USA Community.

This is a voluntary prevention program designed for individual communities that are located within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. This residential community came together shortly after major fires last year and actively took the needed steps to help protect their homes and investments. This program aggressively (and legally) allows the individual developments to evaluate and put into place methods that will address very important issues like establishing "defensible space," managing the plant and fuel loads close to the properties, removing invasive weeds/flash fuels and addressing access and escape routes.

If your HOA is interested in becoming a Firewise USA Community please contact the Building & Fire Safety Department at Town Hall for guidance.

## IN CASE OF FIRES

**READY. SET. GO!** Wildland fires happen quickly and unfortunately, they have happened in Cave Creek. Have you prepared an evacuation plan for your household? In the event of an evacuation, be prepared and know what to do:

<https://ein.az.gov/ready-set-go>

**READY, SET, GO!**  
Prepare now. Be alert. Evacuate!

**NO DRONES:** Flying drones near to fires interferes with fighter fighting efforts which includes the ability to pilot planes & drop slurry fire retardant. Don't fly drones when fires are happening nearby.

**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Schedule a Cave Creek Fire Official to visit your community or property by contacting Town Hall at 480-488-6600

[www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/FireSafety](http://www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/FireSafety)

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## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

### Emergencies..... Dial 911

Cave Creek Town Marshal..... 480-488-6636  
Cave Creek Fire Official..... 480-488-6637  
Cave Creek Town Hall..... 480-488-6600  
Rural Metro Fire Service..... 480-627-6200  
Maricopa Animal Control..... 602-506-7387  
Maricopa Sheriffs Dept  
(Non-Emergencies)..... 602-876-1000

**Campfires:** Campfires are prohibited during Stage Two Fire Restrictions. Fines are enforced.

**Charcoal and Wood Burning:** Something about a simmering grill smells like summer, but conditions are too dry and hot to risk it; charcoal and wood burning for cooking, warming, and otherwise is prohibited during Stage Two fire restrictions.

**Flame based weed removal:** Prohibited.

## PREVENT HUMAN CAUSED FIRES

**Target Shooting:** Drought and extreme dry conditions make target shooting a fire hazard. Target shooting is not allowed anywhere within the Town of Cave Creek.

**ATVs:** Be cautious where you park. Mufflers have been known to cause fires in dry tall grass and dragging chains cause sparks, which can spread to engulf acres in a matter of minutes; don't!

**Smoking is prohibited at parks in Cave Creek.** This includes Spur Cross Conservation Area, Desert Awareness Park, and Cave Creek Regional Park. Hold your butts and smoke responsibly away from flammable materials and in designated areas only.

**Welding:** Cave Creek is a craftsperson's haven, but our high-risk fire climate means more responsibility. Before welding begins you must apply for a permit with the Building and Fire Safety Department and pass a pre-site inspection to ensure safe success for your project (& our desert).



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