

# Wildfire Risk and Evacuation Planning for the Canyon Creek Community

*Planning for a safer and informed neighborhood*



## Our Goals

1. Understand Canyon Creek wildfire risk
2. Protect life and property
3. Plan a cohesive wildfire response plan
4. Engage community members



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# Understanding the risk

## Central Texas wildfire history

- Most fires occur in western Travis County
- Closely tied to the weather
- Recent weather patterns are ideal for developing these conditions

**Much of the Canyon Creek community is in the “wildland urban interface”**

# Why Do We Worry About Wildfire in Central Texas??



# Texas Wildfires are challenging

1. Each year seems to create worse wildfire conditions
2. Typically, multiple fires can occur stressing fire services capabilities
3. Wildfires are socially very disruptive – displacing large numbers of folks; moving rapidly and giving little or no warning
4. Create the need to make protection decisions in a highly dynamic context and constantly changing situation

# So What Can Be Done?

Prepare, plan, and discuss ahead of time

What will happen?

What needs to be done during a possible wildfire event?

Can we stay or must we evacuate?

How can we decide what to do?



# Challenges to a community wildfire response

1. Expectations about natural hazards
2. Perceived risk vs actual risk
3. Perceived protection responsibility – who protects us?
4. Perceived warning reliability – how do we get the word about the danger?

# Understand & Expect obstacles

Will we lose power? Water? Communications?

Do we stay or evacuate?

What are the “trigger points” for us to begin?

What about residents who may require special assistance to leave?





# Evacuation Planning

1. Is it feasible to evacuate?
2. How do we pass the message to our neighbors?
3. What routes? Are they safe?
4. What if we cannot evacuate?
5. Shelter in Place?? Where?

Even a successful evacuation poses risks to citizens and public safety personnel.

## Recommended Actions

**Home Ignition Zone Assessments** for all homes in the community / Home Hardening  
Manage vegetation around homes  
Creating Defensible Space  
Fire Watch / Fire Warning volunteers  
Ready-Set-Go program for residents  
Evacuation Planning  
Evacuation Drill / Exercise



# Steps to plan a neighborhood fire drill



# Steps to a Neighborhood Fire Drill

Step 1 – Determine your neighborhood's wildfire risk

Step 2 – Determine your neighborhood's readiness

Step 3 – Contact your local emergency response partners

Step 4 – Assemble your planning and execution team

Step 5 – Develop your neighborhood fire drill plan

# Thanks for your attention



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