



July 1, 2019

RE: Ancala Homeowners Association  
"Firewise"

Dear Ancala Owner,

Over the past year, the Ancala HOA has worked with Scottsdale's Fire Captain to assist us with fire safety pertaining to our dry, Sonoran Desert vegetation and how it relates to defensible space and natural area open space (NAOS) that owners are obligated to maintain on their lot. Fire Captain, Steve Hunter, walked and hiked our community to create a comprehensive report to submit to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that began the next step necessary for Ancala to become a fully certified Firewise community. We must collectively continue to do our part annually so we can renew our certification by following the Wildfire Protection Plan created by Captain Hunter.

The Ancala Community Wildfire Protection Plan consists of three phases including:

- \* First, manage the fuel loads within areas maintained by the Association by thinning the existing plant material thus reducing available fire load which insures access for emergency and private vehicles in the event of a fire.
- \* Second, re-establish the defensible space guidelines on the outside of the rear yards adjacent to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The first 5 feet adjacent to the block/view fences needs to have the plant life removed and the additional adjacent 15 feet needs to reduce fuel loads by removing all dead, dying and down materials, thinning existing plant materials, removing flash fuels, raising existing tree canopies and removing all invasive plant species within the above parameters.
- \* Third, is the maintenance of all owner responsible NAOS and Wash areas as defined above.

While this maintenance is required annually, our 2018/19 rainy season brought record rainfalls and with that, spring vegetation has grown in thick and lush making for a beautiful spring scenery that turns into dead and dangerous fuel for the summer fire season. With summer upon us, it is important you maintain your lot to the City of Scottsdale's fire code standards.

Attached is the Firewise/NAOS Guideline and Certification of Completion form for your review. Please complete this required work no later than July 31, 2019 and return the certification form to me via email or you may drop it off at the main guard gate.

If you have any questions regarding the area that is your responsibility you can view your property line at <https://eservices.scottsdaleaz.gov/maps/parcel-information> and just enter your house address.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt action and assistance in making Ancala a safer place to live for all residents.

Respectfully,

Saundra McCarrell, CAAM  
Executive Director, Ancala Homeowners Association  
AAM, LLC

Enclosure



**Fire Abatement**

- ✓ Thin vegetation, remove dead, dying and down plant material that is within 10' of the road.
- ✓ Clear all brush to bare, mineral earth within 5' of perimeter walls.
- ✓ Thin vegetation, remove dead, dying and fallen plant material within the next 15' of perimeter wall/structures (total of 20').
- ✓ Trim all tree limbs within the areas above to a minimum of 5' from the ground.
- ✓ Trim vegetation so tree canopies do not connect with other trees or shrubs.

Remove all invasive plant species listed below. These plants should be completely removed from your property as they are invasive and known to be highly flammable.

- Red Bromegrass
- Tamarisk/Salt Cedar
- Desert Broom
- Buffel Grass
- Fountain Grass

In addition to the removal of invasive plants, please follow these guidelines to maintain any washes or culverts on your property to help prevent flood damage.

**Storm Water/Wash Management**

- ✓ Remove plant materials that are upstream and close to a culvert or other drainage structure opening.
- ✓ Prune vegetation such as tree limbs that have grown low in the wash or main channel of the watercourse which may serve to catch debris. To maintain the intent of the Natural Area Open Space, do not trim more than 2-3 feet off the ground.
- ✓ Reasonable and prudent removal of vegetative debris which lies within the main channel and has the potential to get caught in a drainage pipe or other storm water conveyance structure is encouraged.

For more information on fire prevention and drainage, please visit the City of Scottsdale’s website at [www.scottsdaleaz.gov](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov) and search keywords “Defensible Space”, “Invasive Plants”, and “Homeowner Guide to Drainage”.

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Please complete this work no later than July 31, 2019. Once this work is completed, please return this entire form to the Executive Director by email at [smccarrell@aamaz.com](mailto:smccarrell@aamaz.com) or you may drop it off at our main guard gate.

**OWNER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

We warrant that the work described in the above guidelines has been completed in full as applicable to our property on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

X

Owner Signature