

The 2019 wildfire season is approaching, and NOW is the best time for Jester homeowners to be thinking about wildfire safety. While you might think that rainfall reduces wildfire risk, it's not that simple. Rainfall leads to plant growth, and when summer winds and low humidity arrive to dry out plants, we're left with an abundance of wildfire fuel. Central Texas has avoided a major wildfire in the past few years, but what happened in California last year offers a sobering reminder of what can AND HAS happened here.

The biggest risk to homes is flying embers that can travel a mile or more from flames. ALL HOMES IN JESTER ARE AT RISK OF DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR WILDFIRE IN THE SURROUNDING CANYON AREAS, NOT JUST HOMES ALONG THE PERIMETER.

Jester's annual "30 Feet for Firesafety" event is being held February 23 to March 3. This is a great opportunity to clear vegetation around your home and to clear trees and branches in the short window that doesn't include oak wilt or bird nesting seasons. During the event, specially trained Jester residents will be available to perform a free and confidential Firewise risk evaluation of your property. To request an evaluation, go to <https://www.tinyurl.com/jesterfirewise>.

The event will conclude with a special yard waste collection by Austin Resource Recovery during the week of March 4th. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTION, YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR ADDRESS. ONLY REGISTERED PROPERTIES WILL BE PLACED ON THE COLLECTION ROUTE. To register for the special collection go to <https://tinyurl.com/2019JesterFirewiseEvent>.

Once your property is registered, all you have to do is get your brush, limbs and tree trunks stacked at the curb...no bundling required. This special pickup can save you hundreds of dollars versus paying a contractor to haul your yard waste to the dump.

WANT TO SEE HOW A WILDFIRE COULD IMPACT JESTER? Check out the recording of a Jester-specific Webinar that includes 3-D computer modeling of a nearby wildfire at www.jesterhoa.com/committees.html.

Questions? Email us at firewise@jesterhoa.com.