Stone House Community Firewise Plan

January 2026

Preface

The Stonehouse Firewise Committee is proud to submit the Firewise Plan for 2026 as the final step toward recognition as a “Firewise Community/USA.” We wish to acknowledge the hard work and support of volunteer groups and agencies that are contributing to making our community safer and residents better educated on fire risk and safety.

We want to especially thank the dedicated personnel working on behalf of the Stonehouse Community. Specific mention is warranted for these individuals:

- Santa Rita Fire Department
  - Chuck Wunder, Chief
  - Kevin McNichols, Community Firewise Coordinator
  - John McGee, SRDF Cert. Team Lead
  - Hayes Galitski, SRFD Coordinator
- Arizona department of Forestry and Fire Management
  - Michael Deleskiewicz, State Captain
  - Corey Guerin, State Coordinator
- Surrounding Community Support
  - Robert Knorr, Quail Creek
  - Dale Sonnenberg
  - Bonnie Myers
- Stone House Firewise Committee
  - Gil Baez
  - Jim Borelli
  - Robert Grusenmeyer
  - Nick Hadden
  - Ralph Heysek
  - Francisco Jacinto
  - Ronald McBean
  - Chris Sparveri
  - Vicente Paco
  - Steve Muretta

Table of Contents

Introduction

The Stone House Community is proud to submit its 2026 Firewise Plan to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (**DFFM**)**.** The Firewise Committee is composed entirely of Stone House residents and lot owners.

Homeowners are responsible for the costs associated with maintaining their individual properties in accordance with Firewise standards. Committee members will conduct outreach to residents to encourage participation and will volunteer to assist homeowners who are unable to complete the required work independently.

Stone House Firewise Committee:

Stone House Chair	Ronald	McBean	rvpm2000@gmail.com	602-291-8510
Stone House Project Lead	Steve	Muretta	smurt2@mac.com	253-219-0839
Participant	Gil	Baez		
Participant	Jim	Borelli		
Participant	Robert	Grusenmeyer		
Participant	Nick	Haddad		
Participant	Ralph	Heysek		
Participant	Franciso	Jacinto		
Participant	Chris	Sparveri		
Participant	Paco	Vicente		

Originally developed by Robson, Stone House is a 253-acre custom, gated community located in Sahuarita, Arizona. The community offers building lots ranging from one-half acre to 1¾ acres**.**

In 2008, the development was sold to Diamond Ventures, which took over sales and construction of homesites beginning around that time. Stone House was developed as a modern luxury custom-home community, featuring large homesites, mountain views, and an interconnected trail system. Homes were primarily constructed by builders including AF Sterling and Cornerstone Homes.

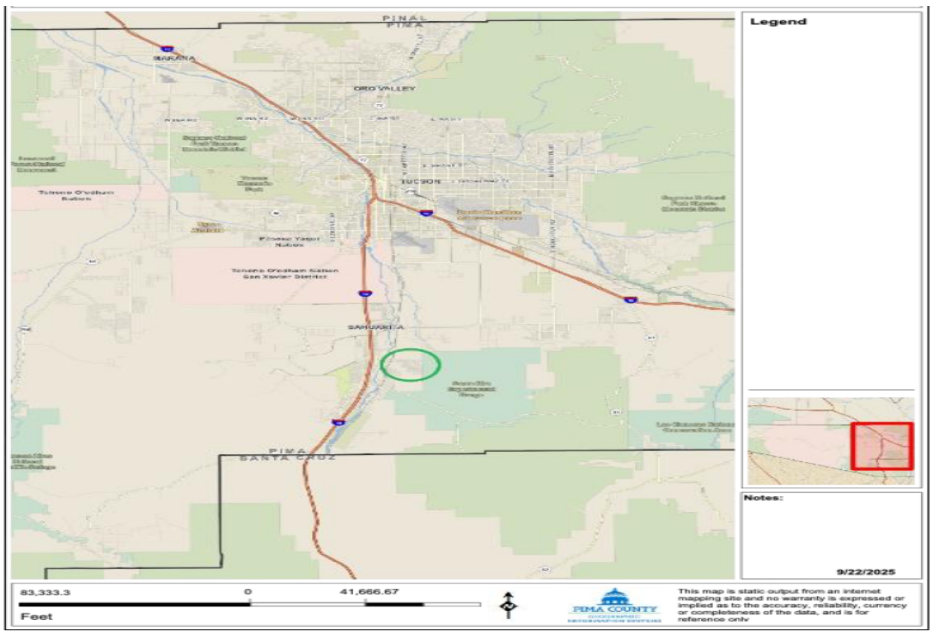
Location

Stone House (Latitude **31.8724° N**, Longitude **110.9343° W**) is located approximately 25 miles south of Valencia Road in the City of Tucson (see Map 1), at an elevation of 2,985 feet. Interstate 19 provides the primary north–south transportation corridor, connecting Stone House to Tucson to the north and Nogales to the south.

Adjacent properties include the Robson-owned Quail Creek community to the north, the Santa Rita Experimental Range (**SRER**) to the east, State Trust Land to the South and Madera Highlands along portions of the the western boundary, along with some privately owned land on the west.

The community is located within a few miles of Green Valley and Sahuarita, where residents have access to employment, shopping, medical facilities, restaurants, houses of worship, schools, golf courses, and biking and walking trails. The region also offers significant arts, cultural, and historical resources, including the Tumacácori and San Xavier del Bac Missions and the historic settlement of Tubac, all within a short driving distance.

MAP 1 – Stone House Location



Deleted: s

Deleted: southern and

Deleted: as well as

Deleted: the

The Firewise Plan presented covers 209 acres of the **253 acres** that comprise the Stone House community. The remaining 44 acres are currently unimproved and would require significant investment, including construction of a bridge across a large wash, before any development could occur.

The goal of this Firewise effort is for Stone House to be recognized as a **Firewise Recognized Community**. Achieving this designation begins with building awareness and understanding among all Stone House homeowners. While many homeowners have begun establishing defensible space around their homes, much of this work has been completed without comprehensive knowledge of Firewise standards and best practices.

To better direct these efforts, the Firewise Committee will host an **educational event** for residents to introduce the Firewise program, discuss wildfire risks specific to the Sonoran Desert, and explain how wildfires start, spread, and are fueled. The event will also address mitigation strategies homeowners can implement to reduce risk and will emphasize what maintaining Firewise recognition means for each property owner within the 209-acre developed community. Committee members will follow up directly with homeowners who are unable to attend and provide program information and offer their assistance.

An ongoing communication program will be implemented to ensure continued Firewise awareness, provide updates on community status, request volunteer time and expenses related to cleanup activities, and offer homeowners a mechanism to ask questions or request assistance with property mitigation efforts.

Through education and engagement, the Firewise Team aims to motivate homeowners to develop and execute Firewise mitigation plans that will extend defensible space into the Extended Zone, see **Appendix 4** Zone Definition, thereby increasing individual safety and reducing wildfire risk to neighboring homes and the community.

Deleted: community

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt

Ownership

The 209-acre Stone House community consists of 230 platted lots, of which 195 are currently developed with occupied homes. Home sizes range from approximately 2,000 to 3,900 square feet.

Most homes in Stone House were constructed between 2010 and the present and are designed in a territorial block style. Construction features include minimal exposed wood, stucco-covered soffits, and limited attic ventilation openings, which reduce the potential for ember intrusion.

Based on an average of two occupants per household, the estimated population of the community is approximately 390 residents. Including households with children and multi-family living arrangements, the total number of Stone House residents is estimated to range between 420 and 430.

Topography

The Stone House community is situated in the northwestern foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains, at an elevation of approximately 3,000 feet. The area is characterized by gently rolling terrain interspersed with natural desert washes that function as drainage channels during monsoonal events and as potential pathways for wildfire spread under dry and windy conditions.

The community lies within a transitional zone between developed residential areas and open desert wildland. Rolling slopes and shallow arroyos contribute to complex fire behavior, particularly where vegetative fuels accumulate in topographic depressions. Fire may be rapidly channeled upslope due to preheating effects, and prevailing winds can further accelerate fire spread through these natural corridors.

Slope aspect and terrain configuration may intensify fire behavior during high-wind events common to southern Arizona's fire season. These topographic features also contribute to fuel continuity, increasing the potential for sustained fire spread. The presence of non-native invasive grasses, including Buffel Grass and Fountain Grass, particularly along slopes, washes, and roadside easements, creates continuous fine fuels capable of carrying fire into and through the community.

The combination of slope, wind alignment, and highly flammable fine fuels significantly increases the potential for ignition and rapid-fire spread. In addition, the proximity of structures to vegetated areas on uneven terrain reduces effective defensible space in some locations. Properties adjacent to slopes or near wash mouths are especially vulnerable due to increased ember exposure and slope-driven flame movement.

Mitigation strategies should prioritize the establishment of fuel breaks along topographic features that may channel fire, targeted removal of invasive grasses, and enhancement of defensible space on parcels located on or adjacent to slopes. Continued community engagement in Firewise practices are essential to addressing topography-related vulnerabilities and improving overall landscape resilience.

Deleted: is

Vegetation

The Stone House community is characterized by a mix of native Sonoran Desert vegetation and ornamental landscaping associated with residential development. Native plant species include Mesquite, Palo Verde, Ocotillo, Creosote bush, and various species of cacti. While many of these species are adapted to arid environments and exhibit some fire-resistant characteristics, they can still contribute to wildfire intensity under prolonged drought, high temperatures, and windy conditions.

Of particular concern is the presence of non-native invasive grasses, including Buffel Grass and Fountain Grass, which have become established in open spaces, roadside easements, and along natural washes. These species cure early in the fire season and create continuous fine-fuel beds that are highly flammable. When aligned with slope and prevailing winds, these fuels significantly increase the potential for rapid fire spread into and throughout the community.

Ornamental vegetation and unmanaged green waste around residential structures further increase structure ignition risk. Dense shrubbery, accumulations of dry leaf litter, and ladder fuels located near homes and buildings present elevated risk during ember showers and surface fire movement.

Overall, the vegetative composition within the community presents a moderate to high wildfire vulnerability. Without routine landscape maintenance, implementation of defensible space, and active invasive species management, the potential for ignition and structural loss remains elevated. Proactive mitigation measures—including fuel load reduction, targeted removal of invasive grasses, ongoing landscape maintenance, and resident participation in Firewise USA® best practices—are critical to improving vegetation resilience and reducing wildfire risk throughout the Stone House community.

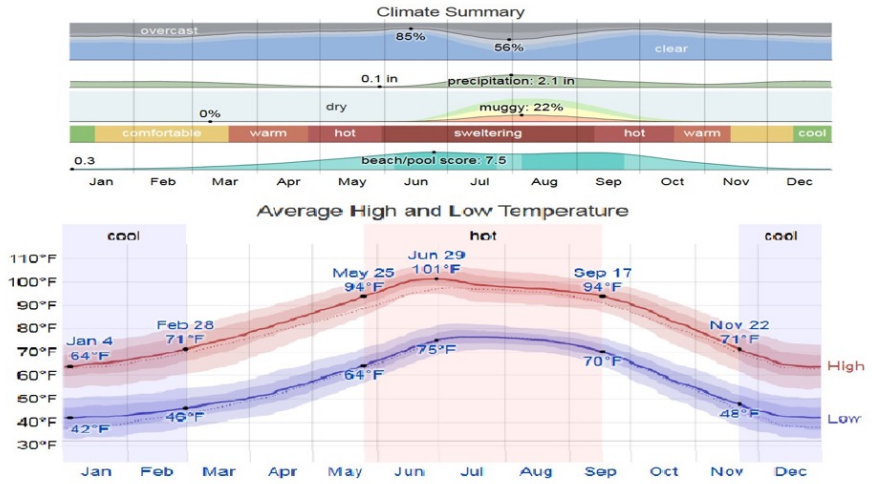
Climate and Wildland-Urban Interface

The Stone House community experiences a typical southern Arizona desert climate, characterized by low annual precipitation, hot and dry summers, and seasonally high winds—all of which contribute significantly to wildfire risk. The region receives most of its rainfall during the monsoon season (July–September), but long dry periods in spring and early summer result in critically low fuel moisture levels. These pre-monsoon months—April through June—represent the peak of fire season, with prolonged drought conditions, high temperatures often exceeding 100°F, and frequent red-flag wind events. Strong downslope and channeling winds, particularly through nearby washes and canyons, can exacerbate fire behavior by increasing flame lengths and carrying embers ahead of the fire front. Occasional winter freezes also kill vegetation, contributing to seasonal fuel accumulation when dead material is not removed.

The Stone House community lies within a classic Wildland-Urban Interface (**WUI**), where residential development meets undeveloped desert wildland. This setting increases wildfire risk due to the interaction of vegetation fuels, sloped terrain, and human-built infrastructure. Wildfires in this WUI environment are anticipated to exhibit fast-moving surface fire behavior, driven primarily by abundant fine, flashy fuels such as Buffel Grass and Fountain Grass. These invasive grasses, common along washes, roadsides, and undeveloped lots, ignite easily and can carry fire rapidly into developed areas.

The presence of contiguous vegetation between wildland areas and homes increases the likelihood of structure ignition. Gently sloping topography and natural arroyos can act as fire corridors, channeling flames and wind, and contributing to uphill fire runs. During peak fire season, sustained southwest winds combined with dry fuels can result in significant ember cast and spotting, potentially igniting receptive fuels on roofs, gutters, or landscaping. Without adequate defensible space and fuel separation, homes within the Stone House community are susceptible to radiant heat exposure, direct flame contact, and ember intrusion. Limited access routes and dense parcel arrangements in some areas further challenge wildfire suppression efforts.

In summary, fire behavior within this WUI community is expected to be intense and fast-moving**,** capable of threatening multiple structures in a short period, particularly under the high-wind and low-humidity conditions common to southern Arizona’s fire season. Proactive mitigation, defensible space implementation, and Firewise engagement are critical to reducing wildfire risk and improving community resilience.



Wildlife

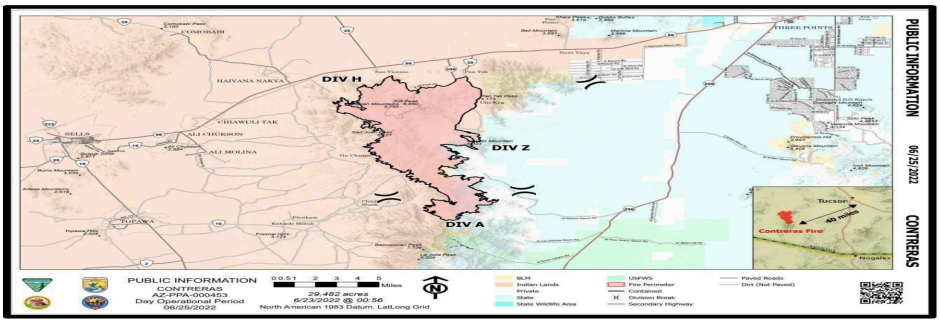
In addition to typical desert species such as insects, rodents, snakes, Gila monsters, and birds ranging from hummingbirds to large raptors, larger wildlife is also prevalent within the Stone House community. Javelina, Bobcats, and Deer regularly roam the area, reflecting the community's proximity to open desert and natural habitat.

Fire Regime and History

In recent years, multiple wildfires have occurred on state, city, and federal lands within several miles of the Stone House community, highlighting the ongoing wildfire risk in the region. Notable is the fact that these fires have all started and burned in the high forest areas and not in high desert landscapes found in the Green Valley and Sahuarita foothills. Recent forest fires include:

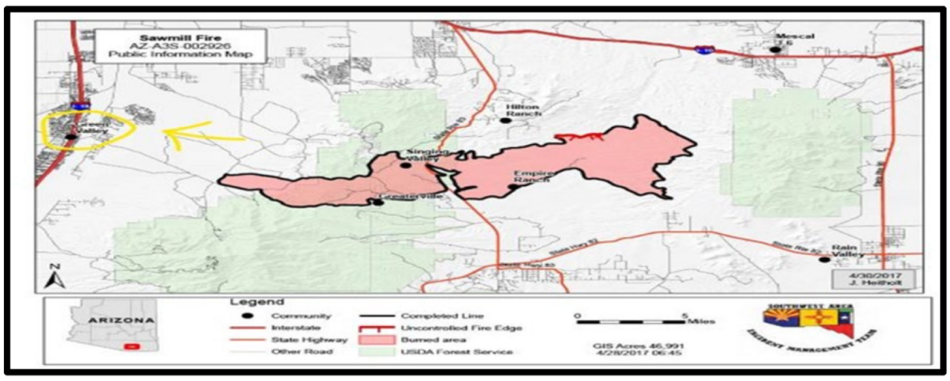
- **2023 Navarro Fire** –Burning **2,306 acres** at an elevation of **6,500 feet**; the fire was located 14 miles west of Stone House, in the Sierrita Mountains.
- **2022 Contreras Fire** – Burning **29,482 acres** at an elevation of **6,800 feet**; the fire was located 40 miles west/southwest of Stone House near the Kitt Peak National Observatory.

Deleted: east



- **2017 Sawmill Fire** – Burning **46,911 acres** at an elevation of **4,000 to 7,100 feet**; the fire was located approx. 14 miles from Stone House in the Santa Rita Mountain range.

Formatted: Font: Bold



These fires illustrate the community's proximity to areas with high wildfire potential and underscore the importance of defensible space, Firewise mitigation practices, and ongoing community preparedness.

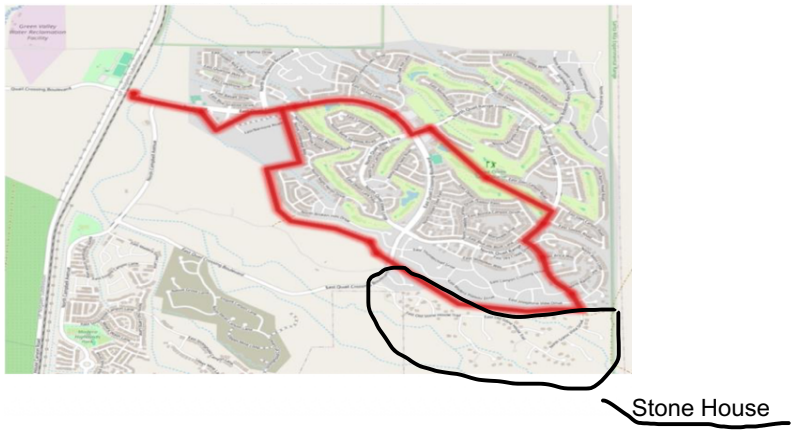
Community Infrastructure

Ingress and Egress

Stone House has one primary ingress/egress route at Old Stone House Trail & Quail Crossing Parkway and a secondary, unimproved, exit that leads in the community of Quail Creek. The secondary exit is located at the corner of Scenic Vista Drive and Reata Ridge, allowing residents to exit into Quail Creek and proceed through Quail creek to get to either the Quail Crossing Blvd. main gate or the main Stone House exit at Quail Crossing Parkway (see Maps 2 and 3).

Map 2 – Quail Creek Crossing Blvd. Exit

Map 3 – Quail Creek Parkway Exit



Road Dimensions and Turnarounds
Average street widths are approximately 31 feet, with 28 feet of asphalt and an 18-inch concrete strip on each side. Cul-de-sacs are designed to provide adequate turnaround for emergency vehicles and solid waste trucks, with a standard diameter of 90–100 feet, consistent with suburban design standards.

Water Supply and Fire Hydrants
The community is served by JW Water (formerly Quail Creek Water Company) and contains 37 fire hydrants strategically located across 230 lots spanning approximately 180 acres. Hydrants are color-coded according to National Fire Protection Association (**NFPA)** standards and marked with reflectors to assist fire department personnel in locating water sources quickly.

Fire Protection Services
Fire protection is provided by the Santa Rita Fire District (**SRFD**)**.** First response is dispatched from Station 155, approximately 3 miles from the main gate, with secondary response from Station 153, about 7 miles away. All stations are staffed 24/7, and all operations personnel are red-carded and trained for wildfire response, equipped with appropriate wildfire apparatus.

The SRFD maintains an International Organization for Standardization (**ISO)** rating of 3, ensuring strong coverage for both wildfires and structural fires. Average response times to the community range from 3–5 minutes, providing rapid emergency support.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans / Hazard Ratings

Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (**CWPP**)
The 2013 CWPP for Pima County is currently being updated, with completion expected by June 2026. A primary goal of the CWPP is to prioritize the reduction of wildfire fuels. To achieve this, the updated plan will include a Wildland-Urban Interface (**WUI**) map, identifying areas where human development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

The Stone House community intends to maintain an active relationship with the Pima County CWPP to participate in WUI planning, align mitigation efforts with county guidance, and obtain practical recommendations to reduce wildfire risk within the community.

DFFM Firewise Risk Assessment / Community Wildfire Hazard Severity
The Firewise USA® program focuses on both community and individual responsibility to reduce wildfire risk. Key areas of focus include home construction and design, landscaping and maintenance, and emergency response planning, all aimed at minimizing loss of life and property during wildfires.

A home's risk of ignition is influenced by both the availability of wildfire fuels and the home's vulnerability. Firewise risk assessments evaluate these and other factors by examining three home ignition zones (see ***Appendix 4 – Zone Definitions***):

1. **Immediate Zone (**0–5 feet from the home**)**
2. **Intermediate Zone (**5–30 feet from the home**)**
3. **Extended Zone (**30–100 feet, sometimes up to 200 feet from the home**)**

A larger and well-maintained home ignition zone increases a home's survivability by providing a buffer against embers, radiant heat, and flame contact, while also improving the ability of firefighters to defend the property.

In pursuit of Firewise USA® recognition, the Stone House Firewise Committee engaged DFFM to conduct wildfire risk assessments. DFFM staff conducted on-foot and vehicle inspections of the community, evaluating:

- Community access points and infrastructure
- Vegetation types, density, and continuity relative to homes
- Slope and terrain feature influencing wildfire behavior
- Building construction materials, including roofing and siding
- Fire protection availability and capacity

The numeric assessments and narrative reports reflect **average conditions observed** rather than worst- or best-case scenarios.

Summary of DFFM Risk Assessment Findings (Stone House Community)
(see ***Appendix 3 – DFFM Community Wildfire Hazard Severity / Risk Assessment***)

- **Overall score:** *36/100* – classified as **Low Hazard**, with excellent scores for community design and infrastructure.
- **Topography:** Community is generally flat, with no topographic features influencing fire behavior broadly; however, localized slopes along washes and drainage corridors may channel wind and fire, presenting localized risk areas.
- **Defensible space:** Landscaping practices were generally good within the Intermediate Zone (5–30 feet). Consistency decreased beyond 30 feet, particularly for homes bordering non-landscaped desert areas and washes.
- **Extended Zone management:** DFFM recommends coordinating with landowners/managers to manage grasses and brush within the Extended Zone (30–100 feet) near structures.

These findings provide a roadmap for the community to strengthen defensible space, fuel management, and Firewise engagement, aligning with both Firewise USA® and Pima County CWPP priorities.

Community Accomplishments

The Stone House community has a strong foundation upon which to build a successful Firewise USA® program. This foundation includes architectural design standards, proactive homeowner actions, and a commitment to protecting property from wildfire risk.

Home Construction Requirements

Home design and construction requirements in Stone House significantly reduce wildfire risk. Homes built prior to 2018 adhered to Stone House Architectural Guidelines, which include:

- Exterior stucco finishes
- Tile roofing
- Minimal or no exposed wood on exterior surfaces

In 2018, the Town of Sahuarita adopted the International Building and Fire Codes, including local amendments that further enhance fire resistance. Homes built after this date are required to have:

- Exterior walls and projections within three feet of property lines rated for **one-**hour fire-resistance or better
- Fire-resistant roofing to prevent ignition from wind-blown embers
- Double-paned windows to reflect radiant heat and resist breakage
- Homes 3,000 sq. ft. or larger must have a fire suppression system

A significant portion of homes in Stone House were constructed after these code updates so modern fire-resistant designs are prevalent throughout the community.

Landscaping Treatments

Community homeowner dues fund an annual landscaping contract, which includes maintenance of the 7-foot buffer along streets, as designated in plat diagrams. Responsibilities of the landscaping contractor include:

- Regular brush and tree trimming
- Weed control performed twice annually to reduce fuel loads

Homeowner Cleanup

Community bylaws limit homeowners from extensive property clearing outside the building envelope so properties maintain a natural desert aesthetic. This policy was strictly enforced for 15 years by the HOA management company.

In 2021, enforcement was relaxed as homeowners began improving their lots, (*See **Appendix 2 – Community Photos***). By 2025:

- Most homeowners have cleared the Immediate Zone (0–5 feet)
- Approximately 70% of homeowners had cleared the Intermediate Zone (5–30 feet)

These efforts demonstrate the community's proactive approach to wildfire risk reduction, combining homeowner engagement, modern construction standards, and collaboration with local agencies.

Community Project Goals

The Stone House Firewise Committee will build a three-year plan to improve wildfire resilience across the community. This plan is guided by the DFFM Wildfire Risk Assessment and community-specific assessments, which identify targets for defensible space and home ignition zones across the three key zones:

- **Immediate Zone:** 0–5 feet from the structure
- **Intermediate Zone:** 5–30 feet from the structure
- **Extended Zone:** 30–100 feet (sometimes up to 200 feet) from the structure

The community's goals focus on Education, Home Hardening, and Fuel Reduction, in a manner that preserves the Sonoran Desert look and while maintaining Stone House's low wildfire risk rating**.**

Education and Community Engagement

While homeowners have made notable progress in reducing wildfire risk, much of this work was completed without formal guidance on Firewise practices. The Firewise Committee will:

- Host educational events to introduce Firewise principles and mitigation strategies
- Develop a trained Firewise Team to assist homeowners in creating and executing their Firewise plans, upon request
- Prioritize Intermediate Zone compliance as the first step for homeowners to standardize defensible space across the community

Additional education tools include:

- Stone House Firewise Website: A centralized hub for homeowners to access program information, track community progress, request help, report hours and expenses, and view calendars of events and meetings
- Continue providing education days leveraging resources from the Santa Rita Fire Department and Arizona department of Forestry and Fire Management

Wildfire Fuel Reduction Goals

Property owners are currently at varying levels of fuel reduction. The Firewise Committee's short-term goal is to ensure all homes meet Immediate Zone requirements (0–5 feet from structures)**.** Given the current status of properties in Stone House, this goal is achievable without major planning

(See ***Appendix 2 – Community Photos / Desert Washes***)

The Committee will also support homeowners in gradually achieving Intermediate Zone compliance (5–30 feet)**.** This process may occur in phased increments of 5–10 feet**,** allowing manageable progress over time.

Moving toward the **Extended Zone (**30–100 feet**)** will be pursued strategically, as only select properties have areas that extend into this zone. Limited participation at this level is not due to lack of interest but reflects natural property boundaries and the configuration of the community.

For detailed descriptions of all Firewise Zones, (see ***Appendix 4 – Zone Definition***).

Strategic Focus

The Stone House Firewise Committee has identified vacant and unsold lots, desert washes, and bordering WUI lands as priority areas for wildfire risk mitigation.

Vacant and Unsold Lots

(See Appendix 2 – Community Photos / Unbuilt Properties)

The Committee will engage with property owners and the developer to develop mitigation plans that reduce wildfire risk to neighboring homes. A recent success involved an out-of-state property owner who collaborated with the Committee: over a three-day period, more than 5,000 lbs of flammable vegetation were removed, significantly reducing fire risk for adjacent properties.

Desert Washes

(See Appendix 2 – Community Photos / Desert Washes)

Desert washes present a special challenge due to their fragile ecosystems and partial protection status. The Firewise Committee will work closely with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) to:

- Assess fuel loads and wildfire risk
- Develop safe and effective mitigation plans
- Ensure all cleanup activities align with environmental regulations and best practices

WUI Lands

Adjacent **WUI lands** to the east and south of Stone House are also a concern. The Committee intends to actively engage with the proper authorities and advocate for the establishment of a 100-foot firebreak along our border to reduce wildfire risk to the community.

By targeting these high-risk areas and collaborating with stakeholders, the Firewise Committee aims to enhance community-wide resilience, protect structures, and maintain ecosystem integrity

Community Investment

In the context of **Firewise USA®**, community investment refers to the **time, labor, and financial resources** that homeowners collectively dedicate to **wildfire risk reduction** and property management, as well as supporting mitigation efforts across the community.

While Stone House has **not yet implemented a formal tracking system** for homeowner work and expenses, this will be established in conjunction with the upcoming **Spring Education Day**.

Current Investment
For Fiscal Year 2025, homeowner contributions, through HOA dues allocated to landscape maintenance, averaged $94–$105 per homeowner. These funds support the maintenance of the 7-foot buffer area along the unbuilt and open area properties in Stone House. With the depth of our roads this creates an approx. 45-foot-wide fire block from one side of the street to the other.

- Total community expenditure for this effort ranges from $21,620 to $24,150 per year
- This investment exceeds the NFPA minimum recommendation of $33.49 per homeowner per year

Volunteer Effort and Additional Mitigation
In addition to HOA-funded landscaping, homeowners have volunteered time and labor to address unbuilt lots and Extended Zone mitigation. A recent project on a 1¼-acre unbuilt lot involved:

- 5 homeowners contributing 53 hours of labor ($1,775 in volunteer time)
- Removal of 5,000 lbs of flammable vegetation
- Additional $300 in trailer rental and dump fees

Going forward, similar efforts are expected for other unbuilt lots, while occupied properties will generally require fewer hours (estimated half the labor) and yield 500–1,200 lbs of vegetation removed per property**.**

These combined efforts demonstrate the community's commitment to proactive wildfire mitigation, balancing financial investment and volunteer action to protect both individual homes and the broader Stone House community.

Community Firewise Day

The Stone House Firewise Committee intends to work collaboratively with the Quail Creek Firewise Committee on Firewise-related initiatives, including the planning and execution of all future Firewise Day. Stone House and Quail Creek will initially hold their first Firewise day independently from one another. For Stone House we will plan this initial day for early 2026, hopefully by the end of March, dependent on the availability of invited speakers and periods when seasonal residents are present and able to attend.

The agenda will focus on areas of concern identified by residents and will include presentations on home hardening, ember intrusion prevention, defensible space, impacts to homeowner insurance, and community emergency planning.

Deleted: Community

Deleted: This

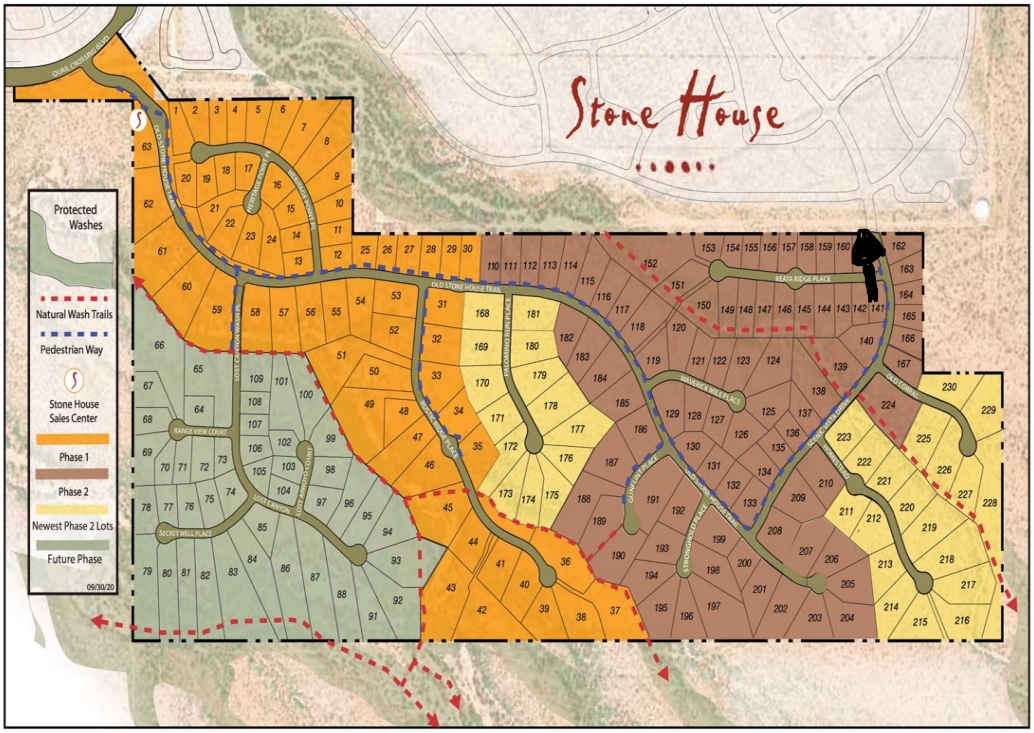
Deleted: event is planned

Deleted: with scheduling

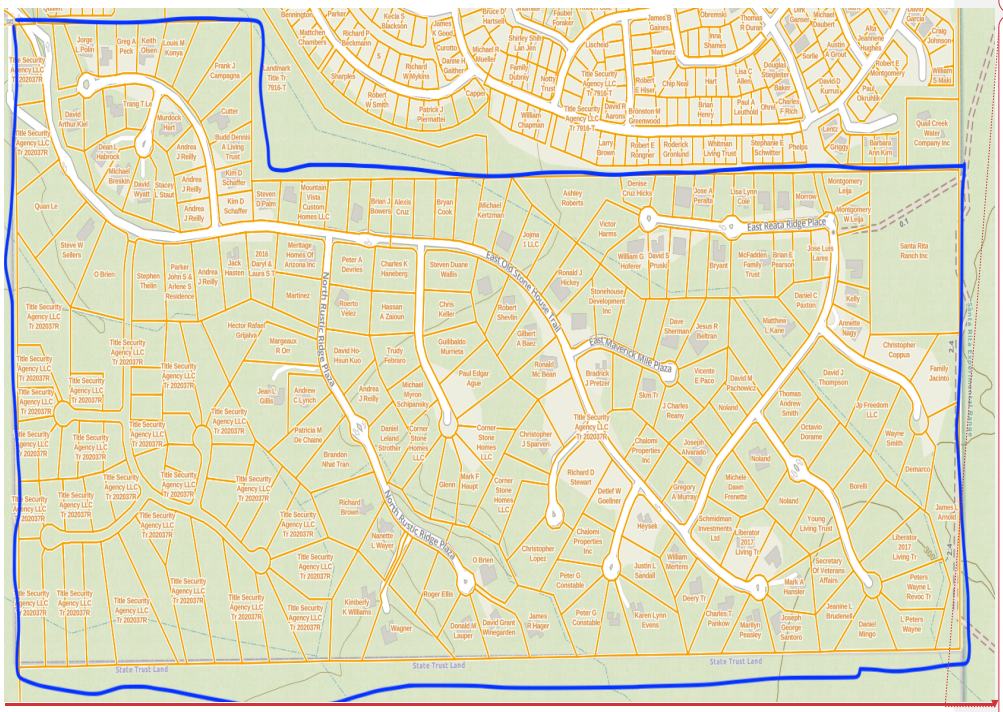
Appendices

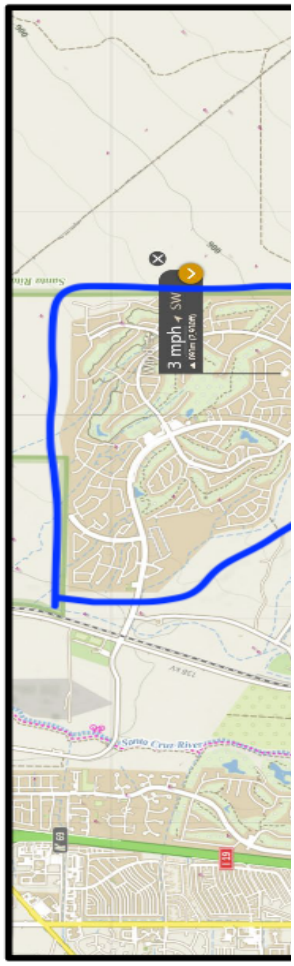
Appendix 1 - Maps and Boundries

Stone House Plat Map



Stone House Boundries





Formatted: Underline

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Formatted: Normal

Deleted:

Appendix 2 – Community Photos

Developed Properties Photos

Unbuild Property

Worked Before & After

Properties Requiring Planning

Washes

Appendix 3 - DFFM Community Wildfire Hazard Severity / Risk Assessment

Community Name: **Stone House HOA** Date: **06/04/2025**

Elements	Possible Points	Community Average
A. Community Design		
1. Ingress and egress		
- Two or more, primary roads	1	
- One road, primary route	3	
- One way in/out	5	5
2. Primary road width		
- Minimum of 20 feet	1	
- Less than 20 feet	3	1
3. Road Accessibility		
- Smooth road, grade of 5% or less	1	1
- Rough road, grade of more than 5%	3	
- Other 5	5	
4. Secondary road terminus (if applicable)		
Loop roads, cul-de-sacs		
o Outside turning radius is greater than 50 feet	1	1
o Outside turning radius is 50 feet or less	3	
o Dead-end roads		
o Dead-end roads 200 feet or less in length	3	3
o Dead-end roads more than 200 feet in length	5	
5. Average lot size		
- More than 10 acres	1	
- Between 1-10 acres	3	3
- Less than one acre	5	
6. Street signs		
- Present (4 inches or greater in size and reflectorized)	1	1
- Present (4 inches or less in size or not reflectorized)	3	
- Not present	5	
B. Vegetation (Fuel Models)		
1. National Fire Danger Rating System fuel models		
- Light (grasses, forbs, and sawgrasses)	1	1
- Medium (light brush and small trees)	5	5
- Heavy (dense brush, timber and hardwoods)	10	
- Slash (timber harvesting residue)	10	
2. Defensible space		
- 100 feet of defensible-space treatment around buildings	1	
- 30-70 feet of defensible-space treatment around buildings	5	4
- No defensible-space treatment around building	10	
C. Topography		
1. Slope		
- Less than 9%	1	1
- Between 10-20%	4	
- Between 21-30%	7	
- Between 31-40%	8	
- Greater than 41%	10	

D. Additional Rating Factors		
1. Rough topography that contains steep canyons	2	
2. Areas with a history of higher fire occurrence than surrounding areas due to special situations such as heavy lightning, railroads, escaped debris burning, arson, etc.	3	2
3. Areas that are periodically exposed to unusually severe fire weather and strong dry winds	4	3
E. Roofing Material		
1. Construction material (See explanation of Uniform Building Code fire-resistance classes)		
- Class A roof: (ex. concrete shingles and tile, slate shingles, clay tiles), mineral or fiberglass reinforced asphalt shingles; metal roof or fiber-cement shingles with gypsum underlayment)	1	1
- Class B roof: (ex. metal sheets or metal shingles without a gypsum underlayment)	3	
- Class C roof: (ex. asphalt shingles and wood shingles chemically treated to resist fire)	5	
- Non-rated: (ex. untreated wood shakes and shingles) Any roof with plastic skylights	10	
F. Existing Building Construction		
1. Materials (predominant)		
- Noncombustible siding/deck	1	1
- Noncombustible siding/wood deck	5	
- Combustible siding and deck	10	
G. Available Fire Protection		
1. Water source availability (on site)		
- 500 gallons per minute hydrants less than 1000 feet apart	1	1
- Hydrants producing less or other on-site water source available	2	
- No hydrants or other on-site water resource available	10	
2. Water source availability (off site)		
- Sources within 20 minute round-trip	1	1
- Sources within 21-45 minute round-trip	5	
- Sources greater than a 46 minute round-trip	10	
H. Utilities (Gas and Electric)		
1. Placement		
- All underground utilities	1	1
- One underground, one aboveground	5	
- All aboveground	10	
I. Total for Home (Total all checklist points)		
1. Low Hazard: Less than 49 points		36
2. Moderate Hazard: 49-68 points		
3. High Hazard: 69-83 points		
4. Extreme Hazard: 84+ points		

Appendix 4 - Zone Definition.

THE IMMEDIATE ZONE (0-5' FROM A STRUCTURE)

Create A Non-Combustible Space

- Corrective pruning of trees, vines, or other vegetation encroaching on unprotected residential building eaves.
- Clean roofs, under solar panels, and gutters of debris that could catch embers.
- Move flammable materials, such as patio furniture, away from exterior walls, especially during extended absences.
- Remove flammable materials, like bark mulch, from this area.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Do not plant trees with 5' of a structure.
- Maintain shrubs and other plants located within 5 feet of a structure by removing dead wood/vegetation and keeping the plants appropriately watered.

THE INTERMEDIATE ZONE (5-30' FROM A STRUCTURE)

Increase Defensible Space

- Removal of ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns.
- Treatment of invasive grasses.
- Pruning trees so that lowest limbs are four to eight feet from the ground and prune smaller trees, so the lowest limbs are at one-third the height of the tree.
- Tree placement planned to ensure mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to a home; and limiting trees and shrubs to small clusters of a few each to break up continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

THE EXTENDED ZONE (30-100 TO 200' FROM A STRUCTURE)

Interrupt a Wildfire's Path & Keep Flames Smaller and on the Ground

- Disposal of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Removal of dead plant and tree material.
- Treatment of continuous, uniform fuel beds of invasive grasses.
- Ensuring trees 30 to 60 feet from the home have at least 12 feet between canopy tops and ensuring trees 60 to 100 feet from the home have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.