



## Wildfire prevention and preparedness

Central Texas faces one of the highest wildfire risks in the nation, second only to California. Nine out of ten wildfires are caused by human activity, making prevention everyone’s responsibility. The City of Austin is taking action — and you can too.

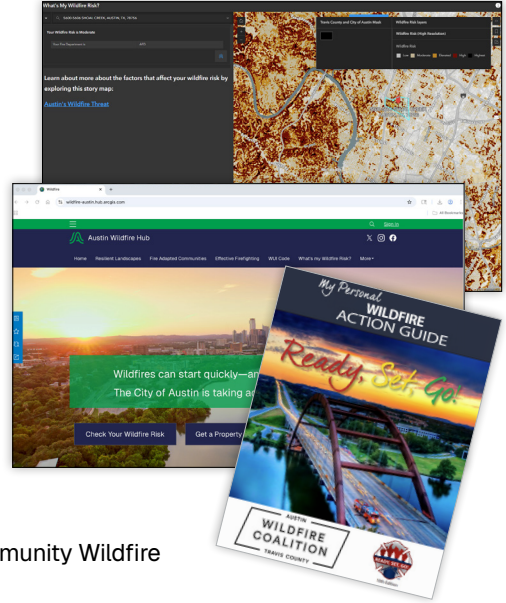
The **Austin Wildfire Hub** offers maps, tools and guidance to help area residents understand wildfire risk and prepare before an emergency happens. At [atxwildfirehub.com](http://atxwildfirehub.com), you can:

- **Monitor** the latest wildfire information from local, state and national sources.
- **Check** maps to see wildfire risk in your neighborhood.
- **Request** a free property evaluation from Austin Fire Department or discover how to do your own.
- **Learn** to create a defensible space around your home and plant resilient landscapes.
- **Find out** how to turn your neighborhood into a fire-adapted community.

The Austin Wildfire Hub also includes a downloadable “Ready, Set, Go!” Action Guide, with tips and checklists to help you create a wildfire evacuation plan for you and your family.

Staying informed is critical during any emergency. Sign up for emergency alerts at [warncentraltexas.org](http://warncentraltexas.org).

Learn more about how the Austin-Travis County Wildfire Coalition is building a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and provide your feedback at [publicinput.com/cwpp](http://publicinput.com/cwpp).



## Make the right choice with Purple Choice

As Austinites know, the next drought starts when the last rain ends. In such a parched climate, it’s more important than ever to recycle water. That’s why Austin Water is working to build a city-wide network to carry recycled water. And why we’re asking you to help us do it faster through our Purple Choice program.

Recycled water is used water that has been treated to a high standard then sent back to customers in special, purple-colored pipes to use for things like irrigation or cooling. By recycling water, we will pump less from our lakes – our only drinking water source. With an expanded recycled water system, by 2040 we’ll save millions of gallons of water daily.

By contributing \$6 a month, customers can help expand Austin’s recycled water system faster. Want to directly help protect our lakes and preserve our drinking water? Head to [austinwater.org](http://austinwater.org) to sign up today.

## Green By Design returns this spring

Interested in buying, building or remodeling a sustainable home? Check out Green By Design, a free workshop series from Austin Energy Green Building.

- Wednesday, April 8**     **Session 1:** Planning and Design
- Wednesday, April 15**   **Session 2:** Materials and Landscaping
- Wednesday, April 22**   **Session 3:** Home Systems

Join us in person at Austin Energy’s headquarters, 4815 Mueller Blvd., to learn about building practices and technologies that can help make homes more efficient and comfortable while reducing maintenance costs. Materials and light snacks will be provided. Visit [austinenergy.com/workshops](http://austinenergy.com/workshops) to reserve your spot.





## Are you ready for possible spring floods?

Austin sits in the heart of “Flash Flood Alley,” where waters can rise in a flash! Often, we experience some of our biggest storms in the spring. To stay safe, avoid roads and flood prone trails during heavy rain. If you must drive, watch for water on the road and remember to Turn Around, Don't Drown. Flooding can also impact thousands of homes in Austin, creating serious loss and financial strain. Find out if your home is at risk, make a plan and consider getting flood insurance for added protection. Visit [atxfloodsafety.com](https://atxfloodsafety.com) to find important actions to take before, during and after a flood.



## Recycle plastic bags and Styrofoam™ the right way

Plastic bags and Styrofoam™ should never be put in your recycling or composting carts or dumpsters. Plastic bags can get tangled in and damage recycling equipment, and both materials wind up in landfills.

Both plastic bags and Styrofoam™ can be recycled through special processes, just not curbside. Recycling these materials correctly helps support Austin's zero waste goal by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

Austinites and Travis County residents can schedule an appointment to drop off their items at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center so they can be turned into new products. Many stores also accept plastic bags for recycling. Visit [austintexas.gov/recycling](https://austintexas.gov/recycling) to learn more.

## Choosing a private waste hauler

Hiring the right private waste hauler matters more than many Austinites realize. Licensed private haulers are registered with the City of Austin and are required to follow proper disposal rules, helping keep neighborhoods clean and safe. When unlicensed haulers are used, waste is more likely to be dumped illegally, which can harm streets, creeks and nearby green spaces. Hiring a licensed hauler also helps protect you, since these businesses carry required insurance and are accountable for how waste is handled. Before scheduling your next pickup, take a moment to check Austin Development Services' list of licensed private haulers at [austintexas.gov/hauler](https://austintexas.gov/hauler).



## Have an active warrant or citation with Austin Municipal Court?

Take advantage of the 2026 Warrant Amnesty program from March 23 — April 17! You can resolve unpaid citations or outstanding warrants without fear of arrest and warrant fees will be waived. Get full details at [austintexas.gov/court](https://austintexas.gov/court) or 512-974-4800.

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite [coautilities.com/go/utilitynews](https://coautilities.com/go/utilitynews).

**Customer Service Phone:** 512-494-9400

**24-Hour Power Outage Reporting:** 512-322-9100 | **24-Hour Emergency Water Service:** 512-972-1000

**North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center):** 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

**South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center):** 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100

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