

Emergency Preparedness Committee
Bel Air Ridge Center – 2760 Claray
Thursday October 16, 2013 7pm

Call to order:
7:10pm

Roll call (no new attendees)

<u>Present</u>	<u>Affiliation/Title</u>
Chuck Maginnis	BABCNC Safety Chair, Bel Air Resident
Susan Reuben	Holmby – Westwood
Linda Camras	Holmby - Westwood
Buddy Jolton	Casiano Estates
Candy Mintz	Casiano Estates <i>Board Secretary</i>
Dan Palmer	Residents of Beverly Glen
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glen
Barbara Rapoport	Residents of Beverly Glen
David Rapoport	Residents of Beverly Glen
Don Farkas	Casiano Bel Air Homeowner's Representative
Larry Leisten	Bel Air Glen
Leslie Stojka	Bel Air Ridge
Marina Segall	Bel Air Ridge
Arthur Aratow	Bel Air Ridge
Capt Christopher Cooper	LAFD, Disaster Preparedness Section

Introduction of Attendees:

Everyone introduced themselves, and new at the meeting were Linda Camras who is assisting Susan at Holmby-Westwood. Barbara & David Rapoport saw our meeting notice and had an interest in EP & CERT. Arthur Aratow and Marina Segall are both on the BA Ridge Emergency Preparedness Committee and joined us tonight. Captain Cooper attended last month and heads the Disaster Preparedness Section for the City of LA under Chief Mark Akahoshi. His returning to provide the presentation was appreciated.

Approval of minutes:

Leslie Stojka motioned to approve the September 19, 2013 minutes, Susan Reuben seconded, minutes approved.

Ongoing Projects:

Chuck Maginnis suggested starting the meeting with ongoing projects as Captain Cooper was setting up for his power point mini CERT presentation.
- The BABCNC Emergency Notification System that 20 individuals have signed up for has been placed on hold pending DONE's review of the disclaimer language provided on the sign up

sheets. Chuck mentioned that copies of the Alert LA County brochures were sent with the September minutes and he will resend this to the new attendees.

- Since neither Rick Cole or Irene Sandler were able to attend, Chuck displayed a large color copy of the Incident Map that Rick Cole offered to provide for HOA's, which would use them. He then described different aspects of the map and how that would help HOA's during emergencies. Susan Reuben, who visited with Rick the day before regarding an Incident Map for Holmby-Westwood, mentioned that Rick asked for fire hydrant locations. She asked Captain Cooper if this is something her local Station 71 would have, and he said the station should have that on a map. She then asked about water pressure in a disaster and use of their own water hoses. The Captain replied that it depends on the emergency and Don Farkas suggested that use of water hoses takes special training. Don also suggested keeping things simple.

- Chuck described the questionnaire Irene Sandler presented which was designed to help HOA's pinpoint where they are in the EP process, and what support they have, if any, from their board and their community.

-Next, the 5 point EP plan Susan Reuben presented was similar to the City's plan but simplified. This information was sent to the EP Committee recipients with all the information including the 3 letters which secured 7, then 21 and finally 37 volunteers. As some did not see these attachments, Chuck offered to resend this to new attendees and others can view Chuck's October 10 email. Feel free to request it again from Chuck if you cannot find his email. Chuck presented Susan with a copy of the Holmby Hills emergency placard (to hang on a door knob) which Don Farkas originally masterminded as Chuck, Don and Monica Weil developed as a Safety Committee project several years ago. Chuck also mentioned that Don Farkas presented and handed out a postcard announcement from his HOA 4 years ago which received positive responses, and is mentioned in previous minutes. The idea of distributing these documents is so HOA's can choose not to recreate the wheel.

-Another topic not yet presented which Nickie Minor brought to my attention from an earlier BABCNC meeting is Nextdoor.com which is form of social media like Facebook, but geared toward neighborhoods and could be a useful tool for neighborhood watch. Chuck described it briefly and also mentioned WhitePages.com which gives names of 40 neighbors at a time. These subject will be agendized.

Emergency Preparedness & CERT Powerpoint:

Captain Christopher Cooper was introduced and he started by saying today's weather was extreme, which is one step below red flag status. LAFD placed 74 more people on duty due to extreme conditions. They use the National Weather Service for condition alerts. Alert LACounty.gov is sent by zip codes as copies of the brochure was distributed by Chuck with the September minutes.

- Red flag alerts are activated when there are 25 mph winds, or greater, and when humidity drops below 15%. If you lick your lips and they are dry in a second, relative humidity is around 10%. Today it was 6%, but winds were not over 25 mph, thus an extreme. Street parking is prohibited on certain streets on Red flag day so fire truck can navigate the Brush clearance is our biggest defense against fires.

- A 7.9 or greater earthquake is expected which would last 3-4 minutes.

- An Arc Storm is 20 or more days of rain where debris and excessive water flood everything, also causing mud slides.

- Terrorist attacks is another emergency we need to consider and be aware.
- Evacuation routes are important. For example, Capt Cooper sits in the back row near the aisle when seeing a movie, like Gravity he recently saw so that a quick escape is possible and he can see everything from fires to terror activities. Electronic cigarettes are now allowed at movies which Captain Cooper explained could present another danger of real cigarettes being used.



- Safety for earthquakes has changed where we should no longer stand in doorways, rather we should drop, cover and hold on, for 3 minutes as we should in the Great Shakeout at 10:17 am on 10-17-13 (the following day).
- He and his wife plan to meet at the nearest fire station if their home is unsafe.
- Get an contact outside of your area, or out of state as a communication point.
- Phones almost crashed during a final episode of American idol last year, and things will be worse with an emergency.
- Beverly Glen Park might be a shelter. Senior highs schools are good because of rooms, bathrooms, showers and facilities to cook. UCLA will be a non-structured facility with many amenities.
- Evacuating means: Get ready, Get set and Go (as in immediately).
- Susan asked how long help and receiving supplies might take as waiting 10 days or longer is possible before help is available, and Captain would plan to have supplies for 4-8 days, maybe 10-14 days.

- With the disaster Sandy, the East Coast had fuel but no power and as most homes placed generators in basements which flooded, so energy was the major problem.
- You may be asked to evacuate or shelter in place.
- LAFD is doing a Neighborhood disaster planning pilot program and they are looking for cities that would like to participate. And they are strongly considering BABCNC locations. They go all out bringing helicopters, supplies and personnel and media. The last pilot program was in Highland Park where 200 people participated. They would need at least 20 homes and Chuck suggested BA Ridge, BA Crest and Holmby might be interested candidates as Susan responded that Holmby-Westwood may very well be interested. The pilot would entail around 10 meetings downtown, for around 3 community leaders, for the selected HOA. As example, they would set a home up with different situations where the neighbors would decide a course of action. The selected community would respond as if the police and fire were not available, thus being the first responders. It would use the City of LA's 5 step plan as the pilot lasts around 4 hours after they come in the night before, setting up tents and supplies. After going through emergency situations, everyone comes together to compare notes. The media tapes the rehearsal to use and discuss with other communities during the following year. A government grant will support 20 homes and HOA's will have till January 1 to apply. The 5 point plan is on the LAFD website as noted in previous minutes.
- Drop, cover and hold-on was reinforced as taught now verses finding a doorway, where this older theory came from 1953 building codes which has since drastically improved. Concrete buildings are not safe.
- CERT is a 7 week, 17 ½ hour course and there is also an I-317 and I-315 class.
- The new process for CPR is a rhythm similar to the sound "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gees. You only stop CPR pumping on chest when victim comes back to life, you get exhausted or someone relieves you. There is enough oxygen in our blood to provide the brain with functionality for 2-3 minutes. Pump every 3 seconds or so. Sidewalk CPR is an hour course where it is being incorporated in CERT.
- The 2012 LAFD Emergency Preparedness edition was handed out although a new edition is coming out through LA City, not the county. It is a great improvement with better graphics.
- Captain covered page 29 in the booklet regarding CERT's 17 ½ hour, 7 class CERT program:
- Earthquake Preparedness –Japan supplied the example
- Fire preparedness –uses an electronic fire extinguisher simulator
- Disaster Medical operations
- Multi-Casualty incidents
- Light search and rescue –Example was doing a systematic sweep of the aisles in a market
- Team organization and psychology –A 7.9 earthquake will produce 15% fatalities. Marina Segall asked about the safety of her 4 grandchildren in schools, and Captain responded that all education facilities have plans for emergencies.
- Terrorism –example was the recent Boston marathon bombings noting all the green vests after the incident, were CERT volunteers
- LAFD is looking to do more CERT classes and with the help of the LAPD, it will be called LA City CERT, with 175 police officers trained to provide additional training.
- Susan Reuben asked about training for her volunteers in several classes and Captain responded that a class similar to this one would be offered, Disaster Awareness Course (DAC). Ask for DAC which they call CERT light. They like 50 people for a CERT class and for the HOA to help fund it by providing a line item in their budget for the helmet and vest at \$20 per person,

showing commitment to their program. The LAFD provides the booklet, materials and the instructor. The helmet and vest, however, are optional and might be supplied by the program. They hope to allow classes to be more flexible to meet community needs from weekly to 2-day courses.

-Larry Leisten mentioned that land lines are good for being able to contact the outside world even without electricity if you have an analog phone that does not require local power. Analog lines are powered by the phone company. Chuck added that the very old 2500 phone sets with no features work well, and the Central Office has very good redundancy.

-Cell phone stores, in event of long electrical outages, will offer to recharge cell phones for free.

-Fires can cause later disasters for floods and mud slides. Hildreth commented on her experiences with Sandal Lane. Captain Cooper said they called on 74 more firefighters to put 300 feet on the ground for fire alerts during our extreme warm weather conditions to reassure us LAFD is ready. Don Farkas suggested having a communication plan for CB radios which use different frequencies, and to have the HOA's communicate which channels they use, so they can communicate. Chuck mentioned he would place this on the agenda. Everyone applauded Captain Cooper for his presentation and Chuck presented him with a laminated Emergency Placard from BABCNC, which can be attached to a door handle.

Adjournment at 8:50pm

Chuck Maginnis
Submitted: October 20, 2013
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