

Emergency Preparedness Committee
Bel Air Ridge Center - 2760 Claray
Wednesday June 18, 2014 7pm

Call to order:

7:15pm

Roll call

Present

Chuck Maginnis
Susan Reuben
Hildreth Simmons
Maureen Smith
Michael Schlenker
Irene Sandler
Buddy Jolton
Hildreth Simmons
David Van Iderstine
Morgan Moore
Guillermo Sanchez

Affiliation/Title

BABCNC Safety Chair, Bel Air Resident
Holmby Westwood
Residents of Beverly Glen
Bel Air Resident
Bel Air Crest
Bel Air Crest
Casiano Estates
Residents of Beverly Glen
Bel Air Glen
Red Cross
Red Cross

Introduction of Attendees:

Everyone introduced themselves and their association, or residential area. David Van Iderstine was new to the meeting and lives in Bel Air Glen. While in the public affairs office at Southern California Edison, David was the EP & Business Continuity Manager. He is currently helping out the Red Cross in catastrophic earthquake planning. Morgan Moore, Community Relationship Coordinator, is in charge of the Community Ambassador program with Red Cross. And Guillermo Sanchez, Specialist Preparedness and Resiliency, is one of the Red Cross coordinators who also over see's many volunteers.

Approval of minutes:

Maureen Smith motioned to approve the April 16, 2014 minutes, Susan Reuben seconded, minutes approved.

Red Cross Preparedness Presentation

Guillermo Sanchez was introduced and started by asking who felt they were prepared. With 3 responses, he asked for examples. Susan said they have enough food and water for 6 weeks, back packs with 55 gallon tanks from SOS, sanitary supplies, shovels, axes, and many more items. They are just missing sleeping bags and a tent. Irene said that even though she does not have food and water for 6 weeks, she does have many supplies but in addition to Susan, a crow bar. She is concerned about her medications on hand and getting to the EP supplies depending on the emergency. Chuck mentioned he was very proud of his daughter as the family went to All

Saints Church in Beverly Hills where they had City of Beverly Hills EP presentation. David asked if it was Pamela Mottice-Muller who presented and heads EP in Beverly Hills, and Chuck concurred that it was. She did a great job of gaining their interest which is something Chuck has had trouble doing as his daughter bought a pack for her auto, went home and discussed EP for another hour: turn off valves for water and gas, electrical panel, fire extinguisher, water drums, food, tools, list of neighbors, out of town contact and other preparations. There was a great earthquake video and a “Are you ready” questionnaire which Chuck offered to share. Guillermo passed out pamphlets which cover many of the subjects he will discuss. Below, Guillermo is shown addressing the group.



Guillermo's first slide showed the 4 disaster denials: it won't happen to me; if it does it wouldn't be that bad; if it is that bad people will help me; & if it's that bad, it doesn't matter what I do. He then played a video from USGS on what we might expect from a San Andreas 7.5 rupture. Over 200,000 commute every day across the San Andreas which means they could all be separated. With a 7.5 quake it is estimated that 1600 will die, 63,000 will be injured, damage could run \$213 billion, 1500 buildings will collapse, severe shaking could last 2-3 minutes, over 1 million will try to use their phones, there could be no water or electricity for weeks to months, people will be trapped in glass buildings, the earthquake will travel for 2.3 miles northwest, tens to thousands of aftershocks are expected, traveling from point to point will be extremely difficult and 255,000 will be enclosed in their homes. And it all depends on how we prepared for this as

to how our life will be after a big earthquake. Below, Buddy Jolton, Maureen Smith, David Van Iderstine, Michael Schlenker, Irene Sandler, Hildreth Simmons, Susan Reuben and Morgan Moore attentively listen to the presentation.



It is important to have a plan and enough supplies for 3 or more days minimum. Be prepared! As Susan asked how old the USGS file was which was done years ago, Irene asked how Guillermo would change the video for today's needs and the response was to include the communities more, neighbors helping neighbors. Susan agreed and said that everyone in the community should be prepared for longer than 3 days as we have been told we will get no emergency response for weeks. David concurred that it should be 2 weeks. Hildreth also agreed and the question is where to place all these supplies. Susan mentioned that after supplies depleted, there could be danger from neighbors seeking supplies. Guillermo asked if we were familiar with Map your neighbor. Seattle started this and has 4 groups starting with a list of neighbors with doctors and others who will visit homes for casualties. Susan mentioned this is like the City's 5-point plan that they followed. Bringing up the city, Chuck informed the group that Capt. Christopher Cooper is no longer handling CERT and that Capt. John Ignatczyk has taken his place, and has been in touch with Chuck. Capt. Cooper is now assigned to a Century City fire station.

Being Red Cross ready is getting a kit, making a plan and being informed. Buddy said he bought 10 kits at \$50 each for every family member including their autos, and what a great investment it was. Getting a 3 month supply of medications came up and Hildreth asked if the Red Cross could recommend this to the powers to be as it's often hard to get more than a 30 day supply. After continued discussion on the importance of having an ample supply of medications available, Chuck suggested it was due to insurance companies, doctors and Federal regulations and that these institutions needed to be contacted for this EP necessity. Under making a plan, three primary areas were to talk (to neighbors), plan and practice.

Morgan Moore, Community Relationship Coordinator, was then introduced. Below she explained how the communities would be better served with a Red Cross ambassador in their area.



Irene asked how many ambassadors there are and Morgan responded that she covered all of LA County so there were quite a few. Chuck asked what the position would entail and the ambassador would act as a conduit for information and events to and from the community, to Red Cross. Please contact Morgan if anyone is interested. As the presentation continued with being informed, Red Cross radio channels during emergencies are 1070 AM and 640 AM. Alert La County was mentioned and the committee members were certainly aware of this great asset from previous presentations. Guillermo proceeded to cover the remaining slides understanding everyone would receive a copy of his Power Point presentation.

Below, the front group from right to left, Susan Reuben, Irene Sandler & Maureen Smith listen intently as do those on the back row, Hildreth Simmons, Michael Schlenker & David Van Iderstine



Having a good knowledge of “Drop cover and hold along with being well aware of your immediate surrounding areas and nearby locations for assistance, is important. Many of the safety tips presented in by CERT, USGS, LAFD and other guests were covered in the remaining slides as a good reminder to us all. And having out of town contacts was stressed as loved ones knowledge of the family’s health is important to us all. Everyone applauded Guillermo and Morgan for a very informative presentation, and for attending our meeting.

Liability for HOA Boards and Individual’s in planning for disasters

Susan started off by mentioning that all HOA Boards have liability insurance and they should ask their insurance providers for more detail on this. Irene and David both mentioned that you can’t stop someone from suing you but that does not mean they will win if you were doing a good deed showing responsibility with respect to the “Good Samaritan Law.’ The link <http://law.onecle.com/california/health/1799.102.html> was provided by Susan. She also requested advice from a few attorney’s on her board. More information on this will follow as

Susan had one response but was waiting on another. Irene suggested that with doctors and board members attending to their own families, a planned triage center might be either undermanned or improbable for periods of time depending on the emergency. It could therefore make sense to caveat this when planning for emergencies, as one of Susan's counterparts suggested. During any emergency, we are all presented with dilemmas as to whether to help or not. For most volunteers, there is usually little hesitation but it is always up to the individual to make that choice. With more information needed on this subject, Irene suggested contacting the city attorney's Office and would try the LA Emergency Management Department for another opinion. We will also await input from Susan's team and any other information we can gather to help responsible board members decide on the benefits of EP for their people versus the liabilities involved. Being an important topic with more information needed, further discussion will be continued at our next meeting.

HOA Developments, Improvement's & Roadblocks

Chuck enthusiastically stated that most HOA's who have been attending EP Committee meetings have advanced greatly over the past year. Buddy reported that Casiano is doing well while forming an alliance with AJU, Milken & Stephen S Wise Temple putting an EP plan together for all their communities. They are also trying to involve Centurion for help and addressing routine steps in planning for emergencies. Considering their area with neighbors like Skirball, Bel Air Presbyterian and other nearby schools, escape routes and planning is important, as things are progressing. Michael at Bel Air Crest mentioned that he is now HAM Radio Certified and is looking for other radio communication partners in his surrounding areas. He has contacted Dan Palmer regarding this but is still waiting to speak with Ron Cornel as they are both big on communications in their prospective communities. Handing radios to block captains has stepped up their personnel issue tremendously as their volunteers were excited to be trusted with this new asset and responsibility. This is a good idea for other HOAs as volunteers are hard to find, and hard to keep motivated. Susan reported that Holmby-Westwood is moving right along and just waiting on one board members input on where to meet for an emergency considering that Holmby Park is on top of a potential water pocket which may render this location unavailable in an emergency. She also mentioned that they may be one of the only HOAs to implement the city's 5-point plan as no one else has specifically brought it up. Although this may be true, Chuck reassured her that other HOAs were trying to execute similar procedures and plans although they are not labeled as the 5-point plan. Chuck also mentioned that Residents of Beverly Glen who Hildreth represents, had a presentation from Dan Palmer just a few months ago providing information on how their 3-4 mile radio communications was operating after being successfully tested. And Hildreth pointed out it is working beautifully as the repeater on her possible made the connections possible between Firs station 71 on Sunset and Fire Station 99 on Mulholland. What a tremendous communication advancement this will be for the Residents of Beverly Glen who must certainly be pleased with both Dan and Hildreth for their time and generosity in providing this capability.

Adjournment at 9:25 pm

Chuck Maginnis
Submitted: May 2, 2014
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