

Emergency Preparedness Committee
Bel Air Ridge Center - 2760 Claray
Wednesday May 20, 2015 7:30 pm

Present

Chuck Maginnis
Maureen Smith
Irene Sandler
Hildreth Simmons
Karen Solky
Marlene Hakakha
Sheryl Bogatz
Dr. Phil Larson
Donna Larson
Dan Palmer
Michael Schlenker
Cathy Palmer

Affiliation/Title

Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Safety Chair
Bel Air Resident
BABCNC, Bel Air Crest Master HOA
Residents of Beverly Glen
Mother of Teen Presenter, Jordan Pomerantz, Bel Air Park
Stepmother of Teen Presenter, Sarah Hakakha, Bel Air Park
Visitor & Wife of Larry Bogatz
Bel Air Park
Bel Air Park
Residents of Beverly Glen, EP Chair
Bel Air Crest Resident, Chair, EP Communication Subcommittee
BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker for this meeting

Special Guest Speakers

Sarah Hakakha Teen Presenter on Water Conservation
Jordan Pomerantz Teen Presenter on Water Conservation
Larry Bogatz CERT Leader, Battalion 18
Jim Nelson Laurel Canyon Resident

Introduction of Attendees:

- 1. Call to order:** Chuck called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
- 2. Roll call introduction of attendees**
- 3. Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2015:** Hildreth Simmons moved; Maureen Smith seconded; and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Unagendized Presentation on Water Conservation – Sarah Hakakha & Jordan Pomeranz

Students, Sarah and Jordan, gave a presentation on water conservation within the community. They recommended artificial grass and companies such as Turf Terminators, through Tree People. They discussed sprinkler heads, stating that rotor sprinklers only spray lawns. Gray water can be taken from baths, sinks and washing machines; use small buckets to water plants, but please be sure to use biodegradable detergents to avoid poisoning your plants! Jim Nelson added the fact that phosphates in detergent are fertilizers and you have to be careful.

Irene Sandler brought up concern about artificial turf getting very hot, up to 200 degrees in the sun, which pose risks to children and animals. Sarah said she thought it would only be the case in very hot climates.

The young presenters provided a colored printout of various drought tolerant plants, and even provide a small sampling of potted succulents for examples. Mrs. Larson related that there is a nursery dedicated to California natives in Santa Barbara.

Hildreth Simmons stated that she attends a weekly sustainability class put on by Sustainability Works at the Santa Monica Library. She has been harvesting rainwater for years.

4. Roundtable E.P. “Roll up Your Sleeves” Q&A Larry Bogatz, Battalion 18 CERT Lead

Larry Bogatz is a Coordinator, responsible for CERT activities in battalion 18 (includes Miracle Mile, Century City and areas south). There are 16 battalions. He has been in this seven or eight years. He is also the creator of the “Neighborhood Team” (NT) program. <http://ntp-la.com/>
John Darnell of Councilman Paul Koretz office introduced Larry to our EP group.

There is a CERT person for this area, and Larry will get back to us on who it is. (ChristyAdair)

CERT has been around since 1986. It provides community support for the Fire Department and neighborhoods in Emergency Preparedness classes. They have five to six Fire Department instructors, and classes all year long, with up to 4,000 to 5,000 people attending a year. CERT prepares the way so that the Fire trucks can come in.

Japan did well with their earthquake only losing 1,000 people, while Haiti lost over 250,000 people. Japan was prepared. Chile then with a greater earthquake lost much fewer due to their construction standards being like ours. Jim mentioned Monica Weil being Laurel Canyons EP person and Chuck complimented her for help with the NC EP placards years ago. FEMA brochures were handed out.

Below Larry Bogatz addresses the group, left to right from front: Maureen Smith, Jim Nelson, Irene Sandler, Marlene Hakakha, Donna Larson, Dr. Phil Larson, Larry Bogatz, Sheryl Bogatz, Hildreth Simmons and Cathy Palmer (taking minutes).



He stated that there are not a lot of CERT teams; however: “The reality is that you and everyone will be largely on your own” and you will work with what’s available.” Teams may be active or inactive. Each community should have its own unique plan. Larry goes around and talks to people. The program they put together, the Neighborhood Team (NT) program, is an effort to

assist people.

Larry related that it is up to the communities to put together the group, materials and plan for preparedness. To find people who know how to operate and use materials or stuff available, including a comprehensive command control system, is difficult.

“Some things in the disaster world you should only do as a team. Search and rescue function is one of them. Need to understand the safety issues. Don’t want to add to the problem by becoming a victim yourself.” Everything you do is with a partner. Someone must be able to assess individual capabilities in order to use personnel properly in this team approach.

Do everything at least with a partner to respond with and for your community. Know your community. This level of preparation is part of the training.

Attendees expressed experiences with CERT training. Irene Sandler shared that she felt ill-equipped after the class. Larry agreed and replied that his concern is that the CERT training doesn’t teach how to work as a team; that their phraseology is “catch and release,” however, he does see some positive changes in CERT. Chuck described how he used his 50+ street captain list which he has had for years which lists doctors, nurses, CERT trained individuals and other helpful sources which is great, but has no organization to it like triage or a command center. Everyone agreed that CERT needed to be reviewed periodically to be more effective. In response to following CERT guidelines in tagging homes or attempts to help individuals with liability at stake, some will do things to help and many will not. Many become paralyzed. CERT is changing in many ways due to our feedback.

Larry stated that the uniformed services are directed not to come to your home or to come to your assistance as individual needs will take a secondary priority to mass casualty needs. When asked what to do about it he answered that you need people to be on your team. This does not require a firefighter and seven-week training. Larry said that he can teach us and we can teach others. He stated that we need the CERT people to be leadership but there’s plenty of people who can follow along and serve, such as in a mass casualty situation, transporting injured people which is key. You need some people with training, some with knowledge and he would place people into slots, based on their knowledge and capability, such as applying pressure or doing CPR, depending on skill level.

Marlene Hakakha asked about taking training online. Larry answered that the Red Cross gives Cert 2 & 3. What’s important is not just reading it but learning how to do it, especially medical information. You can go online at the CERT website and read the CERT manual. Donna asked about a more concentrated CERT program rather than over 6 weeks and Larry responded that a 3 day class is available.

He suggested developing a structure in your neighborhood, to get trained from those who have had it. Chuck encouraged having a plan within your own family or neighborhood. Larry suggested trying to get a number of people together with people who have not been trained. For “What to Have & What to Do?” There are two categories: 1) supply/material and 2) action categories.

Larry recommended for the six neighborhoods (3-5 blocks around your home) represented at our meeting, get together. Discussing “what to have and what to do” For those who would like to learn more with a need for community and neighborhood preparedness, Larry will come out and talk through the two-hour presentation. From there, he stated that half will come back and continue on. Chuck mentioned HOAs having different levels of EP awareness and organization,

while Larry is talking about 3-5 blocks. The question is where are we regarding teams, where are we on the ground.

Irene Sandler asked about different jobs for the groups, to which Larry related that there is a level of cross training recommended. Larry will return when we are serious about team formation. He noted that we will have a lot of individuals with a lot of emotion but no team.

Michael Schlenker related that Battalion 10's CERT team (responsible for our area) just started up again, with monthly meetings on various topics and held at Fire Station 88. Chuck thanked Larry for his very informative and well received discussion on CERT, being prepared and team participation.

CERT: <http://www.cert-la.com/> & Neighborhood Team Program <http://www.ntp-la.com/> .
To get all of the information, put slash after com and add "reports" (com/reports).

5 Evacuation Disaster Planning/Choke Study – Jim Nelson, Laurel Canyon Resident

Jim has been working with Jamie Hall, Cert Rep, involved with community safety, household safety, street safety issues, as well as infrastructure of the Laurel Canyon roads. When asked what's important to him, Jim responded quality of life in the canyons. He is President Emeritus of the Laurel Canyon Association but is currently on his own. Kristen Stavola is also forming a Neighborhood Watch program in the Laurel Canyon area but was unable to attend tonight. Jim related that there is one fire every 10 years. 35 houses can go up in 45 minutes. He stated that the LAFD contained the fire by a ring but watched the fire burn.

The issues are woven together. He demonstrated by pointing to a map of the Laurel Canyon area that he prepared showing two main choke points at Kirkwood and Lookout Mountain. His program asks how long it would take to evacuate Laurel Canyon under various circumstances, to show the LAPD and LAFD what to do and what not to do, depending on where the fire is.

On his map from the northwest corner of the map it would take 45 minutes for fire to travel to the bottom of the canyon, at the southeast corner, in windy conditions. Chuck related that he has heard that from Laurel Canyon (LC) to the I-405 could take 20 minutes in windy conditions.

Jim asks how people can find out about the fire, stating that there has to be an Amber-Alert type of warning. Depending on where the fire started, you tell them which direction to get out of the area, which is critical to the message that's sent out. The Amber Alert has to be set off to tell people what to do for fire, earthquakes and floods.

He noted that in the "Oakland" fire, people got lost in the smoke. All the contingencies and redundancies have to be planned for. Jim is asking that we ask the City to look at his work as a case study to show us a comprehensive command control system, and then we could save hundreds of peoples' lives.

He stated that people need to know the exits. CERT and Community Watch are being folded together in LC for a Command Communication System.

Chuck asked if the Police need to notify people where to go, to which Jim answered that in the last fire which was between Kirkwood and Mount Olympus, a policeman filled up the Kirkwood

Below, Jim Nelson addresses the group, bottom to top: Maureen Smith, Jim Nelson, Irene Sandler and Marlene Hakakha.



Bowl which gridlocked LC for four hours. Chuck stated that this was a communication issue and wind direction can change. Jim related that after that he has become more aggressive with the City about this, when one policeman put thousands of people at risk. It is a matter of life or death if you take a wrong turn.

He stated that you need to know that the person manning the phone knows the right answer. An engineer, on the transportation committee of a neighborhood association will put the data into a computer model. This info is from the DOT for every community. Jim envisions this as a pilot. He asked for the people in this room to help him push this program.

Upon being asked if the EP Committee could form a subcommittee to head this up, Chuck said he didn't have the time to manage this but that Jim was welcomed to, if he wanted. Jim agreed. Even though this appeared to be a good idea, discussion on the subject was suggested. Hildreth Simmons moved that we bring this pilot program to each of our community groups. Donna Larson seconded. Discussion ensued, beginning with Irene who related that we haven't got community groups. Marlene replied that he is proposing a pilot program; that we start with this which Jim described as a "template." Marlene is concerned about intersections where there are bottlenecks. Chuck asked who would be patrolling the people going up or down.

Jim amended the motion to supporting the pilot plan for LC as an example for the other hillside communities. After further discussion the motion became that "The BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee moves to support Jim Nelson's Hillside Evacuation Choke Point model based upon his Laurel Canyon area presentation, as a potential pilot for the City of Los Angeles." The motion was unanimously approved as amended. Irene noted that Jamie Hall introduced this at the last BABCNC meeting. Chuck suggested Jim attend the upcoming NC meeting to present this concept and plan to the Neighborhood Council, as the motion would need

approval from the board for a support letter to be published.

6 Update from Communications Subcommittee on inter-HOA communications - Michael Schlenker & Ron Cornell

They have gone for funding of the radio plans to the NCs, for each of the communities. Chuck showed the proposal for the ham radios given to DONE in order to obtain funding, crediting Michael for his hard work and excellent job in assembling the proposal. They can set up bay station repeaters. Their proposal is that the individual HOAs take care of their own communications; but within the community someone is the incident commander who then needs to talk to the outside world, through the City's disaster radio programs.

Michael noted that there is a new app called "Pulse Point" that the City put out a couple weeks ago and can be set to alert for vegetation fires. He stated that it gives you real-time dispatch of fire calls, including accidents.

The Communications Sub-Committee will help interested HOA's to learn how to use the radios. The radios require training and technician level certification. VHF and UHF frequencies are used for intra-HOA communications while HAM radios are used for inter-HOA communications. Michael is asking for 12 portable hand-held radios and noted that operators will be needed.

Chuck asked Michael for a list of the individuals in Laurel Canyon for Jim, which may be of benefit to him.

Irene wants to be sure that the community is supporting it, that they have to show that the communities are really concerned, and that we want to have this done.

7. Updates on HOA /group Liability

Chuck has no new information on liability.

Hildreth attended a conference on dealing with emergencies and earthquakes, and stated that they had a speaker with an excellent presentation on the necessity of doing what we're doing. They provided Quake-Smart L.A. Chuck will scan this flyer into the minutes, or provide a link. <http://www.mysafela.org/>

Maureen asked about pool pumps for fires. Jim related that there is not a good enough one, but he could instruct you on how to make a good one using a slurry pump that can pump mud and water. He said that on the top you put a pipe fitting, buy a piece of hose, attach it to the pipe and put a nozzle on the other end. When the fire comes, that pump will supply you with enough water to fight a fire.

Hildreth Simmons and Dan Palmer officially invited us all to the Beverly Glen Fair.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.