

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray

Wednesday, November 17, 2015 7 pm

**Present**

**Affiliation/Title**

Chuck Maginnis	Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Safety Chair, CERT
Maureen Smith	Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Board member, CERT
Ron Cornell	Bel Air Ridge Ham & CERT
Michael Schlenker	Bel Air Crest Resident, EP Chair, Ham & CERT
Danielle Cohen	Bel Air Ridge Resident, EPAC
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glen Secretary & EP Committee
Kristin Stavola	Laurel Canyon Neighborhood Watch, We Are LC, CERT
Blanche D'Souza	LCNW Concerned Citizens with Kirkwood Bowl, CERT
David Van Iderstine	Bel Air Glen HOA, Ham
Dan Palmer	ROBG, BABCNC, Ham
Dennis Koci	Mountaingate, BP Security, Ham
Cathy Palmer	BABCNC Administrator & Transcriber

**Special Guest Speakers**

Bill Kabaker, Precise Landscape, Bel Air Ridge Resident, EPAC  
Christy Adair, CERT Battalion 10 Coordinator since 2001, NBC International/Universal

**1. Call to order:** EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**2. Roll call introduction of attendees.**

- After introducing themselves, Chuck asked everyone if they would like to reduce meeting time from two to one and a half hours. Following group discussion, it was decided to aim for an hour and a half for future meetings.
- Hildreth noticed a ROBG notice of an EP meeting & will investigate it.
- Chuck has a prospective speaker from homeland security scheduled in January.

**3. Approval of September 9, 2015 minutes:** Maureen Smith moved; Michael Schlenker seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**4. Need for pruning protected fire hazard trees – Bill Kabaker, Precise**

**Landscape:** Bill spoke on the Protected Tree Ordinance and provided packets with images of the named trees. He has spoken with Chief Castro of the LAFD, who put him in touch with others regarding brush clearance and dead limbs up in the air. He spoke with the SMMC who gave him an approved pruning criteria, to not take the trees out, but prune them even though they may be dead up to the tips of these trees as burning embers can travel half a mile and once they catch in these trees they exacerbate the fire. Bill noted that tree-bore damage is present throughout the Santa Monica Mountains which infects the tree starting at the top and is endemic to pine trees, caused by the bark beetle. Bill noted that no one has a budget for this and was concerned that in the event of a fire that these exacerbate fires in our neighborhoods. He asks that you take

this back to your neighborhoods. He noted that the protected tree ordinance is also for property sales, so that if you remove, you need to replace two to one. Brush clearance regulations stop at five feet not covering dead limbs higher up.

Below: Bill Kabaker fields a question as (from left Danielle Cohen, Ron Cornell, (Bill), Dennis Koci, Christy Adair & Michael Schlenker listen.



Ron Cornell related that this is a funding issue; however, there are grants to mitigate fire hazards. Someone asked if we can go through the NC to go for a federal grant. Discussion was held about this. Ron said that he is just raising the issue. Ron says that part of it is City and some of it is DWP land. Everything 10-12 feet in the air is not covered in the ordinance. There are pruning parameters, should you get permission from ownership. Dan Palmer noted that there is regulation depending on the size of the limb, larger than a certain amount requires an arborist. Bill said that most limbs to be pruned are 2 inches in diameter, to reduce the fuel in the tips. Dan Palmer's understanding is that it includes trees that are dead. Bill related that ownership is a difficult process to establish because we have the Santa Monica Mountains outside our area and we don't know who the owners are.

Dan said it's up to us to find out who is the main guy who handles brush clearance, find out what their view is, and who is doing the checking. Bill suggested that we all look around at the perimeters and come back together and perhaps we can gain some more

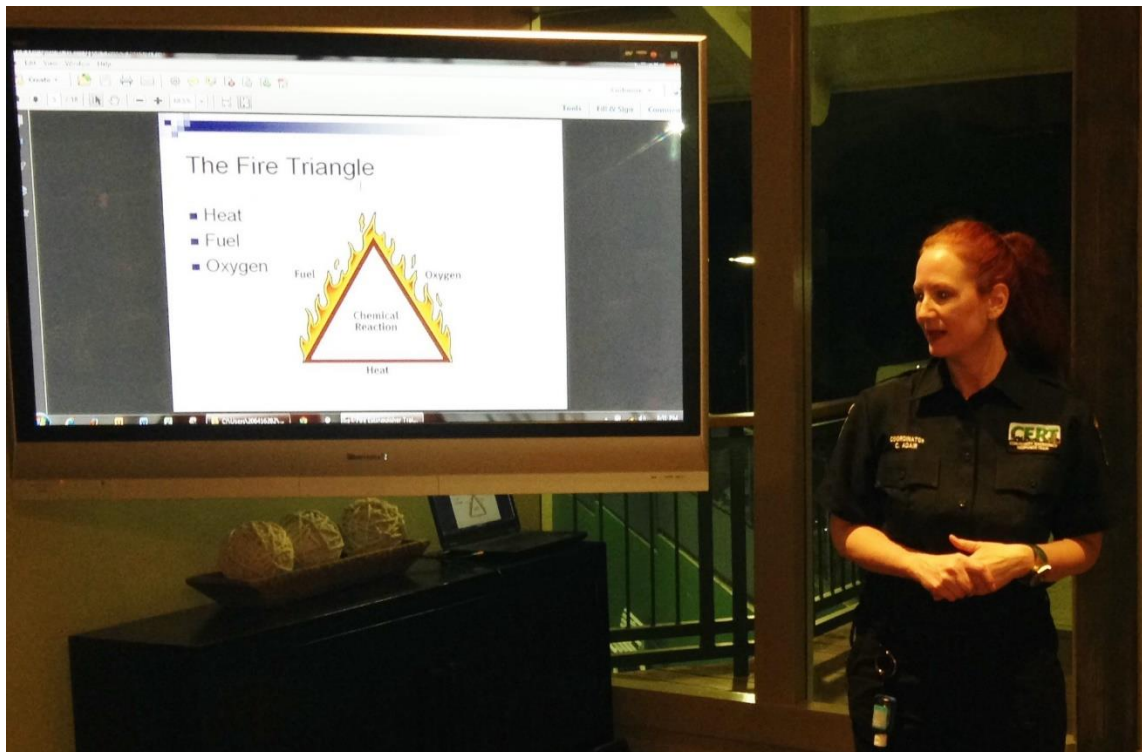
leverage. Noted was that Gabriel Orona works for Inspector Novella in brush clearance. Bill noted Inspector Cisma.

## **5. CERT overview for review and for newcomers so neighbors can help neighbors Christy Adair, Battalion 10 Coordinator**

Christy Adair has meetings at Fire Station 88 for CERT & non-CERT, the second or third Sunday of the month. She gave a Power Point presentation on CERT. Christy stated that she has learned CERT at work, and taken the training three times over the years. The class is 17-1/2 hours. Her monthly meeting gives an opportunity to practice.

Some of the key points in her presentation included the following: CERT deals with everyday emergencies, helps you to manage. First protect yourself, then you can take care of who is next to you. "Protect life, property and environment."

Below, Christy Adair presents CERT Power point slides.



The history of CERT includes learning from prior incidents such as Japan in 1985 and then Mexico City where 100 rescuers were lost.

She said that you learn earthquake (EQ) awareness, disaster suppression techniques, disaster medical, light search and rescue techniques; team organization/disaster

psychology, and lastly, terrorism and homeland defense were added to the 2011 CERT manual. They discuss terrorism and how to protect ourselves as a nation.

When Disaster Strikes: Who will help? Professionals from police and fire.  
Who do you know?

Education/training in CERT. You are welcome to attend battalion meetings anywhere in the city once you're trained in CERT. What do you have to help yourself stay safe? Do you have a family disaster plan?

Website: [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com)

Disaster Kits: Think about what your kit would look like: Flashlights, dust masks, goggles, non-latex medical gloves, leather gloves, important documents, family and pet photos; out of state contact, family emergency kit, 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, extra prescription medication, etc.

What do you have? A place to take your family; extra cash, special needs items.  
Emergency kit in your vehicle, at least a half tank of gas; comfortable shoes in your car.

Below from Left: Hildreth Simmons, Ron Cornell, Danielle Cohen, Bill Kabaker, Dan Palmer, David Van Iderstine, & Dennis Koci view the presentation.



Fire Safety and Utilities. Fire suppression: Learn about fire extinguishers – aim at the base of the fire. If bigger than a small trashcan close off the room, get help.

Medical treatment area set up; how to set up a field hospital, sort and treat patients, so that when professional help arrives you can tell them who needs what. How to triage in a big group Triage and treat patients.



Search and Rescue: How to determine if the building is safe enough to enter. Personal protective equipment is worn.

CERT organization has an incident command system. City puts on drills. They assist professionals as needed.

Christy related that Captain Gerlich was with us for seven years and allowed civilian responders. She oversaw three major emergencies in 2008 and 2009, the Chatsworth train collision, in 2008 the Sayer fire and the Station fire.

From left: Michael Schlenker, Maureen Smith, Hildreth Simmons, Kristin Stavola, Blanche D'Souza & Ron Cornell listen.



Their motto is that “We do the greatest good for the greatest number.” Can’t always do CPR, if there are too many people in the room.

Beyond basic training, they have CERT battalion community meetings. Check the calendar online for information on drills, quarterly trainings, and refreshers.

Michael interjected comments on the ACS Auxiliary Communications Service that allows communicating directly to the State, battalions and bureaus to get more resources. Christy emphasized the importance of communications.

Ron Cornell stated that the biggest problem we have had in previous disasters was communication. They have after-action reviews after each disaster. ACS is a huge component for large disasters.

Michael mentioned the alliance of 95 NCs. This Saturday will be the first meeting of this alliance, to promote NCs to start EP groups like our own. He stated that this also gives us a larger voice with the City.

Emergency Response Roles (callout teams) include firefighter rehab, perimeter watch (downed power lines), evacuation assist, traffic and crowd control, sand bagging, assist as directed by commander. They get called out on red flag days to check. They are allowed to call to have cars towed.

Noted was that you don't want to get within 10 feet of a downed power line. Call 911 and/or stay in your car.

Other classes include FRS and ham radio, CERT level 2 includes disaster services, shelter... CERT 3, emergency medical response, EMT training, wilderness first responder, and fire extinguisher training.

Prevent fires from occurring: Put out small fires and assist with evacuations. Know primary and secondary exits. Locate your safe refuge area, keep halls and exits clear of items. Correct or report hazardous conditions.

Reducing Fire Hazards: Avoid electrical octopus connections, don't run cords under carpets. Replace broken or frayed cords; maintain appliances.

The Fire Triangle: Heat, fuel, oxygen. Chemical reaction. Fire extinguishers are designed to take the oxygen out or cool off whatever is burning.

#### Fire Classifications:

A Common combustibles,

B Flammable liquids and gasses, comes in a bottle,

C Things that run on a current. Live electrical. De-energize. Unplug it.

D Combustible metals. They just let a car burn because it's too expensive to put out.

K Kitchens, burning fats and oils.

Dry chemical extinguishers. Different ones for different types of fire, ABC , BC or dry chemical. Water extinguishers, specialty extinguishers and sprinkler systems.

Extinguisher technique: PASS: Pull Aim Squeeze Sweep. Pull pin, aim, squeeze; test it squeeze handle and sweep. Practice with it.

After using an extinguisher: Discharge it all the way, lay it on the side, exit building, assemble at a safe refuge area. Talk to your family about safe refuge area. Have fun things in kit, e.g., good snacks, fun comfort food. Personal disaster supply.

## **6. Communications Committee Update/Michael Schlenker, Communication Chair**

Michael related that they now have up to 10 ham operators after starting with three. 100% passed on the tests recently. Next radio training class: December 5<sup>th</sup> here at Bel Air Ridge.

They meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 8:30 and have weekly check in on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

They are using repeater at Coldwater and Laurel Canyon. CERT has a ham radio program.

**7. Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.