

**Emergency Preparedness Committee
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 7 pm**

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to order:** EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

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

Present

Affiliation/Title

Chuck Maginnis	Bel Air Ridge, BABCNC Safety Chair, CERT
Maureen Smith	Bel Air Resident, BABCNC, CERT
Ron Cornell	Bel Air Ridge, Ham, CERT
Michael Schlenker	Bel Air Crest EP Chair, Ham & CERT
Irene Sandler	Bel Air Crest, BABCNC
Patricia Bell Hearst	Hillside Federation
Lynnette Dodds	Westwood
Danielle Cohen	Bel Air Ridge Resident, EPAC
Joan Herman	Bel Air Ridge
Bliss Maginnis	BAA Resident
Charles Maginnis	BAA Resident
Gisele Paul	Bel Air Ridge Resident
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glen Secretary & EP Committee
Dennis Koci	Mountaingate, BP Security, Ham
Fred Marcus	Bel Air Ridge, EPAC
Janet Glucksman	Bel Air Ridge
Dr. Phil Larsen	Bel Air Park
Cathy Palmer	BABCNC Administrator & Transcriber
Officer Chris Ragsdale	SLO, WLA Police Station
Officer Maria Gray	SLO, WLA Police Station

Special Guest Speakers

Richard "Scott" Mitchem, US Department of Homeland Security

3. **Approval of November 17, 2015 minutes:** Maureen Hildreth Simmons, approved.

4. **Presentation: Terrorism, Riots, Free Active Shooter Training – Scott Mitchem, US Department of Homeland Security, Protective Security Advisor Los Angeles District, Protective Security Coordination Division Richard.mitchem@dhs.gov**

Mr. Mitchem introduced himself as Scott, stating that he works for Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. He will be sharing information on workplace violence. He can send a copy to Chuck not including the actual slides. He related that his agency engages everybody, crosses all sectors.

Pictured below from left: Charles Maginnis, Irene Sandler, Lynnette Dodds, Maureen Smith, Hildreth Simmons, Presenter Scott Mitchem, Patricia Bell Hearst, Bliss Maginnis, Michael Schlenker, Ron Cornell & Fred Marcus



Scott gave a slide-show presentation with some video and some of the questions and answers that he presented are summarized as follows:

What is an active shooter?

Scott noted that there is no good profile for what an active shooter looks like. They promote the “see-something say something program.”

Based on the 2012 Joint Intelligence Bulletin, an average incident lasts 12 minutes, and average police response time is three (3) minutes.

Scott showed a brief video on the characteristics of a lone-wolf gunman which described individuals who had a plan to bring attention to a cause, saying things like: “It’s time to take some action... nobody takes me seriously; something’s got to be done; it’s going to be all over the news... I’ve got a plan...” The video then cut to images of shooting and 9/11.

Identifying and reporting criminal planning and preparatory acts:

Scott stated that we need to stay connected to law enforcement counterparts. A lot of people don't want to take that first step. Your company may be targeted by protesters.

Scott clarified that he is a physical security specialist with DHS but they also have cyber security specialists.

Identifying people in need of help:

Scott showed a video on workplace violence in which a worker got upset over a parking space and threatened a coworker. Workers went to HR. The HR representative tells the fellow that she heard about the incident. She then brought up his performance as an excuse to give him a probationary period of one month. The guy then goes to his car and pulls a black bag out of his van. The question is, how did he get to that point? The bag was already in his vehicle. This workplace situation led to the next event.

Scott explained that the individual violence process involves negative situations, intense feelings, ideas, planning, and violent behavior. It is important to try to get people like this back onto stable ground, with community, church, or whatever.

Potential indicators: Thoughts, feelings, behaviors.

Scott related that studies find that personally and/or as a community we need to ask closest friends; they find that these people do talk about it but the simmering pot boiling person is tipped over by the next person. Profiles are not helpful; need to take a look at the overall person, their feelings, thinking and behavioral shifts. This requires situational awareness. You don't want to focus on them but think about what comes up at a higher level. Has someone's behavior radically shifted or has there been a slow progression? May need to bring these concerns to someone's attention. Also note someone who is excited about buying firearms.

Workplace Protective Measures:

Things that are helpful include environmental design and lighting, creating safer areas; having check lists. If you see something, say something. Stay connected with local law enforcement. The people at the Department of Homeland Security gets information from them. They try to foster that communication between companies and communities. It is important to identify who you would say something to.

Preparation and management facility manager: Sign up for alerts.

Preparing for Incident Recovery – Communicating with Victims and Families:

This is one of the most important issues for community organizations. Communities who would not talk to each other will come around for each other after an emergency.

Recovery:

Options for Consideration Video: This video was about active shooter situations, which are unpredictable and evolve quickly; it's important to be prepared; make the effort to notice escape routes. Determine if best to evacuate or hide; call 911 if able to do so; help others to escape if possible but don't attempt to help wounded individuals; follow instructions of any police officer; find a place to hide, where they wouldn't find you. Cover versus concealment; choose best option. May have to consider trying to overpower the shooter with whatever... hide... call 911, tell location; give description, and of potential victims. First responders will not be able to help wounded until the rest is safe. Know what to expect when law enforcement officials arrive. Give a very fast list. The need to see list. For more information: www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure

Response to an active shooter situation: Run, hide and fight. Know where you are. What's the quickest way out?

Law enforcement's primary goal is to stop the shooter as soon as possible. Becomes incumbent upon everybody to learn how to help in an emergency situation to save life.

Reactions of Managers: You have to be calm, you have to know your plans better than anyone else. You have to see what your manager is doing; see if they're panicking.

Law Enforcement Response: They'll clear. Do what the officers tell you to do. See www.dhs.gov/activeshooter

Scott shared that FEMA offers a number of courses from disaster recovery, grants management, and for security companies like his own. They can help develop targeted flyers, if you have some kind of event, work with an agency within DHS they'll help develop flyers for an official "see something say something." They can also offer training course.

Asked about additional training, they train on improvised explosive devices, how to recognize, what to do and not to do, targeted to businesses, etc., targeted outreach, healthcare, malls, on terrorism, homegrown extremist, workplace violence, etc.

Patricia Bell Hearst recommended book "Lights Out" as to protective agencies.

Critical infrastructure protection: Two agencies will overlap and null each other out, because they are not sure who is doing what. They're responsible for dams but not all dams. Scott says he asks who the local agency that is doing it.

Asked for the top three-four things to take back to communities/HOAs, Scott replied that having an organization is a big thing, to develop an information-sharing

network, a bang list, a list of phone numbers. If they're doing outreach, he said they will get you the information. That's the big thing. The second thing, is to develop those

plans. Make sure you're taking care of family and become engaged with the community. Don't ignore things. Share what you find is suspicious.

For example, a bunch of military guys waited to report to supervisor, didn't want to bother police, and after doing nothing, the guy you were concerned about later assaulted a family.

Asked if homeowners should have weapons at home for protection, Scott replied "we have no opinion on that." That's an individual position.

Asked, what about people starting out as a troubled teen, what is to be done about mental health? Kids are showing signs of trouble, making plans early in their life. Scott replied that this is a good question; he acknowledged that at one point these individuals were troubled teens, but that DHS is not structured at all to address it; they recognize this, and are engaging with health and human services, as well as faith-based organizations to try to stop this before the teens grow up, to improve the situation. He said that there is an engagement in that but it's not as obvious; that FEMA would be more likely to be involved in that, to get everybody where they were before.

Chuck asked if LA might be next target of ISIS, if there is imminent danger that they're preparing for. Scott replied that NYC, DC and LA are three prime targets. Our largest vulnerability is our openness.

Scott related that Homeland Security hackers evolve, and want to get information away from being classified so that if you need it, if there's a threat, they want to make sure it gets to the right people as quickly as possible.

He stated that the DHS triple validates everything before they put it out there, which slows down putting out the information. When they can verify something, they'll give you something to help you improve your situation, information sharing beyond a simple fact. Other agencies will get that factual information out there. They want to say "that's right, and this is how we're going to help you."

Asked, does DHS have any power to effect change, with regard to Fire Department & Police Department communications not being aligned, Scott answered that in 2003, DHS was a brand new organization. Congress gave them money to prevent another 9/11. They had a system that was only a stop gap. There are other communication systems, one system nationwide is gaining movement. It requires Federal dollars to support it. He acknowledged the concern that there are systems that we've spent millions of dollars on, and end up with one frequency.

Below, Chuck is happy to have his son Charles (left) and daughter Bliss attend Scott Mitchem's (middle left) presentation.



Asked, there have been lots of postings on the internet, how do you determine what's a threat, patterns, etc., how do you know what's real and what's not? Scott answered that he doesn't have a good answer on that. They are moving away from

concept of profiling. Is what they're doing suspicious? If you looked at somebody, you had one guy who had a thought, and then married somebody, drew somebody else in. You'll see that there were people involved.

Chuck and the EP Committee thanked Scott for coming out and giving us this presentation.

5. Liability Update—Good Samaritan Assembly bills – Tim Pershing, Assemblyman Richard Blooms Office – Not present

Chuck related that Tim told him that there are 60-70 bills out; they are doing research and will narrow them to half a dozen bills by the close of January. The Assemblyman will come to a conclusion as to which they will take up. The Good Samaritan Act was mentioned.

At this point, Mike Schlenker recommended asking your HOA if they will be covered under general liability; if the HOA is liable for their HOA members. They asked for a list of those who are CERT trained so they know our resources.

Ron Cornell asked if there's anything we as individuals can do. Chuck stated that he has invited Tim to the meeting to address these things. Chuck will get an update.

6. Ham Radio success & update – Michael Schlenker, Communication Chair

Michael gave report. 13 members; they will be focusing on the east side, e.g., BCA. Disaster Saturday is between 10 and 12. Topic: Emergency Communications with Ham Radio, with representatives from 3 different Emergency Communication groups speaking: ACS, the State Auxiliary Service, managed by LAFD, and in charge of hospitals, and DCS, Disaster Communications for LA County.

Chuck related that Mike was instrumental in organizing through ACS the ham-radio thing. Mike stated that they are starting a committee to help other NCs with their EP committees. Irene asked if they've thought about asking DHS for a grant, Mike said he needs to find someone who can write grants.

Chuck asked Scott how important is what we're doing with ham radios for first responders? Scott replied that in HA, all operators are expected to be available and do monthly checks historically; that through CERT, they got grants as an existing FEMA program, to leverage programs, uniforms, etc. In Hawaii, they used CERT team to broadcast status during event, which helps city and county to respond, to send the resources where they are needed.

7. LA-RICs –Radio Lattice Tower & Data Poll Update - Chuck Maginnis for Rick Polehonka

Chuck gave report on the lattice towers. He gave an example of a tower at a Sheriff's department with antenna for voice communication.

Chuck related that per Rick Polehonka, 231 sites were reduced to 77 sites, and that 20 of the 77 sites are in LAPD locations. Broad-band network will be for the data. Network was completed 2015 and currently undergoing testing. They have approximately 63 fixed towers and 15 mobile units. LAPD withdrew, but there will be two strategic sites in the City of LA and two in the County. These sites are like repeaters. Mike stated that they'll never help residents but will help police, fire and first responders. This was intended for public agencies. Most of our public agencies rely on the commercial cell phones, so in emergency they'll be down.

Mike related that they put antennas in line of cable, so in an emergency someone can plug in a remote radio. If there's ever a communication, the Fire Department can go up to Mulholland and Coldwater, with battery backup. Simplex channels, radio to radio, do not need repeaters. LA Simplex control, without repeaters, we can talk between Chatsworth, Long Beach, down town LA and Moreno Valley. Depends on height and power. We are bouncing radio waves, actually down town off of Dodger Stadium.

Chuck responded these are interoperable communications so that both the PD and FD can get on the same radio. He noted that the problem is that you probably need three channels FD, PD and RICs for both speaking together, with a single radio. Patricia Bell Hearst suggested writing letters stating that this is on a Federal level. Mike replied that it won't help us in an emergency but will help the first responders.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Emergency Preparedness Meeting: March 16, 2016