

**<https://www.lacity.org/> Emergency Preparedness Committee
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 7 pm**

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to order:** EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **Roll call & introduction of attendees:**

Present

Affiliation/Title

Danielle Cohen	Bel Air Ridge Resident, EPAC Co-chair EPAC
Maureen Smith	Bel Air Resident, BABCNC, CERT
Michael Schlenker	Bel Air Crest Resident, EP Chair, Ham & CERT
Irene Sandler	Bel Air Crest, BABCNC
Susan Davidson	Benedict Hills HOA & Safety Security Committee member
Dennis Koci	Mountaingate, BP Security, Ham
Dr. Phil Larson	Bel Air Park
Donna Larson	Bel Air Park, Ham, ACS Member
Captain Chris Winn	Fire Captain I, CERT LAFD Commander
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glen Secretary & EP Committee
Chuck Maginnis	Bel Air Resident. BABCNC Safety Chair, CERT
Cathy Palmer	BABCNC Administrator & Transcriber

Special Guest Speaker

Captain Chris Winn

3. **Approval of March 16, 2016 minutes:** Maureen moved; Chuck seconded; none opposed; minutes were approved unanimously.

4. CERT updates & direction – Captain Chris Winn, LAFD CERT Commander:

Chris introduced himself as being specifically in charge of CERT. He works with John Ignatczyk, Disaster Officer (who took over for Chris Cooper, who is now at LAFD Station 92 in Century City), with whom he works closely. He was pulled out of the field for several years to perform different functions; they rotate back into the field.

Chris related that we get complacent when we have had no disasters for a few years. The newest thing lately has been seismic sensors along the state, for what is going on at the fault lines, and some early warning; otherwise, we are, as a community and Fire Department, to be ready for anything. He appreciated that we are here on a regular basis, and taking actions. He prepared a power-point presentation, and shared some about the community, history, where we are now and where we are going. He is trying to streamline the operations of the CERT and the integration of CERT during a disaster.

Below, Captain Chris presents streamlined CERT as Dr. Phil Larson and others listen.



- **EARTHQUAKES:** “It’s not if... it’s when.” Southern California has a likelihood of 15 out of 18 types of Federally-identified potential disasters. So we are in one of the most dangerous places to live.
- **ARE WE READY?** After the Northridge quake, we had 33 dead within first 24 hours, huge impact on the area of Northridge quake.
- **WILDFIRES:** We have wildfires here; 54 years ago, Bel Air fire of 61. We have 54 years of dry brush, in Santa Ana conditions it dries out quickly. There will be a lot of fire going through here on a Santa Ana day.
- **HIGH WINDS:** Santa Ana conditions primary concern. Unpredictable, embers thrown and move quickly.
- **FLOODING:** El Niño passed through but flooding is still a risk. We even consider water main breaks which cause mud slides. Last night there was a water main break. The further up the hill you come, the pressure is higher in the water pipes. You are pumping more pressure to send the water up. The system is old... Concern of hillside communities is evacuation plans and collaboration with LAFD.
- **TERRORISM:** We never know when it’s coming our way.

- CIVIL UNREST: You have to go into self-survival mode as a community and take the same action you would for fire.
- LOST HIKERS AND MISSING PERSONS: This is not a disaster but the CERT program has a lost-hiker program, where CERT volunteers help out with lost hikers; they have a pilot program in Griffith Park and Runyon Canyon. On a given weekend they get 5-7 lost or injured hikers calls. You have to have a lot of manpower to cover a lot of area.
- HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCIES: CERT program will teach you how to handle problems in your own household, e.g., disaster or broken gas-main can save you from a lot of loss if not checked immediately.
- WHAT DO WE WANT? What do NCs want for their communities?

Coordinated preparation within the neighborhood in which you live. Any response you have needs to be coordinated. Different people have skills and knowledge at different levels.

Self-reliance after a major disaster. On any given day 1200 fire fighters for 4.3 million people on any day in Los Angeles. Help will be delayed. They prioritize where the greatest risk of life is. Estimates: 3-5 days not of the question after a really tragic event. In Japan, it took first responders 3-4 days.

- You have to be realistic when it comes to preparedness for disasters. If you don't buy a kit and make a plan, it's not going to magically happen. Same goes for response. Preparedness is about self-reliance. After a large scale earthquake, you probably won't get through on communications or possibly ground.

More efficient recovery after lives are disrupted. It brings community together to build each other up together.

Interaction on a regular basis of friends and neighbors. Getting together, having snacks and talking about the neighborhood.

Peace of mind for people within the community. All of you here are dedicated to helping with that.

- WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET THERE?

Supplies: Having your own supplies, personal supplies for everyone in your household, including your pets, meals for 7-10 days, dog-food for 10 days – a primary way to get prepared and on a regular basis rotating these supplies. One neighborhood council brings all their supplies and uses them for a barbecue, and then they replenish. Supplies needed at house, car and workplace. Generally the best place is a climate control place away from the house, or shed, detached garage. Some people have sealed barrels near their trashcans. Survey your house to find what the best access is for you.

Education: CERT is not the only program in the City. There is a lot online. Learning about how to be prepared is huge.

From left: Donna Larson, Dennis Koci, Susan Davidson, Michael Schlenker, Hildreth Simmons, Irene Sandler, Cathy Palmer, Maureen Smith, Danielle Cohen and Dr. Phil Larson interact with Captain Chris Winn.



A Plan: Need a plan prior to the disaster happening. Whether CERT trained or not. If you have a couple of CERT trained people, it helps to initiate a plan. It doesn't have to be a perfect plan. In a state of panic and chaos, it is not the time to come up with a plan. "You tend to fall back on what you planned when things are in chaos."

Coordination: Chris noted that in this meeting this evening, we have representatives from a variety of neighborhoods. This is a good thing. He noted that safety chairs have come together and can know what people are doing over there, we can talk about what affects us in different geographic areas.

Communication: Cell phones and land lines cannot be relied upon. He related that the only true communications we can rely on are such as the ham radios. The LAFD has backup systems but despite advanced technology, they go down. The ham radios go a long way without a lot of power. Hildreth Simmons related that she has a solar-powered repeater. Assume there will be no power!

Training: CERT Training, or providing a community event on a Saturday morning, or a table-top exercise, e.g. playing out what could happen in your head. Whatever your plan, you have to talk about it on a regular basis. "Training is extremely important as far as what it takes to be prepared."

Information: Simulated biohazard exposure, and ability to get medications to an area of people, the information piece got lost, the drill didn't go well, and the key factor was that the information wasn't accurately disseminated and not received; it was a communication breakdown, when you don't know what's going on is a problem. Don't underestimate the power of information. Irene Sandler noted the lack of response from the city or county on Aliso Canyon, until it was dire. NotifyLA is the newest communication platform, a means of gathering information. Currently what EMB is using about any EOC activation. It comes to our smartphone. Along the same lines as used for Amber Alerts. Situational information about what's happening right now. Maureen Smith mentioned that the Governor has reported that he will be funding an Early Notification System.

■ WAYS THAT PREPAREDNESS IS COORDINATED THROUGHOUT THE CITY

CERT Training;

NC Safety Committees;

The EMD 5-Step Program;

Private Consulting Firms;

Community Plans;

Block Plans;

Household Plan

■ HOW DOES IT ALL COME TOGETHER?

Interoperability: This is a big push that he and John have been talking about. How do you have interoperability with the people on the other side of Sunset? True interoperability happens when you do things, practice together. (Danielle Cohen related all the things she and her association are doing, including frequent meetings, ham radio practice sessions, etc.)

Logistics: All the things you think you will need; it is one thing to have a kit, equipment cache, but how to distribute? What vehicle? All the little details.

Communication:

Advertising and Outreach: Need to sell this to our communities. Why safety is important. Donna would like to see weekly article, like in the LA Times, to keep people engaged. Chris related that every time they do a drill it's a type of outreach. Get the word out that there is something going on for Safety, but need to have our name out there as the safety committee, or they won't know we exist. There was discussion about how Bel Air Crest had an article in the Times that Michael related was skewed as this is what a rich community can do, as opposed to this is what can be done. Susan Davidson noted that it's difficult to get people to come to a meeting.

- SO WHAT IS THE BABCNC DOING?
 - Safety Committee,
 - Some CERT trained residents
 - Community Supplies
 - Community Plan
 - Communications/ACS
 - Newsletter/Meetings
 - Website
- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
 - CERT Training,
 - Fire Department Education/Integration. Communicate with the LAFD about what they will do.
 - Drill/Practice what you plan
 - Communicate.
 - Revisit/ Update / Amend the Plan
 - Suggestions?

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chuck raised the question of liability and Good Samaritan laws: “If you are medically trained you are in a different category than those without training. Then everyone said, wait a second, we have people volunteering all over the country, and you’re basically telling people not to volunteer to help.” Read about the two bills from 2009 signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Captain Winn will provide the information to Chuck. The 1961 Bel Air Documentary is on YouTube.

5. New LAFD ACS members, training & updates

Michael Schlenker, Communications Committee Chair: Michael noted that of his ACS work, one communicator per organization can talk, as a result of the funding by the BABCNC. We now have two new ACS operators, Donna Larsen and David Van-Iderstine. Distribution and training of the mobile radios was made to Bel Air Ridge and Bel Air Glen. They were present with a booth at Fire station #99, with good turnout. We need to outreach. SOS is having their annual sale on June 3rd and 4th.

6. Roundtable on EP future topics & Outreach

Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Chair: Chuck spoke about changes in telecommunications, including Frontier, XO and Verizon.

He related that next Sunday the LAFD will have a Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station #71 on Sunset & Beverly Glen.

Mark Goodman is now Bel Air Association Emergency Chair where this position being filled is a good thing for Bel Air residents. Larry Bogatz moved to Colorado as we appreciate his previous presentations.

Chuck passed around a list from the BABCNC website showing all the presentations we have had over the last three years, and asked if we would like to see any of these presenters back again. Dennis Koci asked if there is a way to get a table top presentation.

Michael Schlenker noted we haven't had a FEMA representative. Dennis Koci will try to locate someone. Incident Command System discussed. Phil Larsen asked if we could hear back about LAFD Escape routes / Notification. Chris said we should talk to our individual station commanders.

“The two things we care about is parking and access.” Captain Chris Winn

Problem with technology is it changes constantly and is expensive. They do use WAZE. He pulls up things on his phone that give him a geographic street view map. They use them, but not as a department, they don't have that.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Emergency Preparedness Meeting: July 20, 2016