



Building A Better Community

Regular Meeting of the BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Minutes
Wednesday, August 16, 2017 7:00 pm
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

- 1. Call to order - Chuck Maginnis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
2. Roll call: The following are BABCNC EP Committee members:

Table with 6 columns: Name, P, A, Name, P, A. Rows list committee members and their affiliations.

Introduction of Attendees:

Table with 2 columns: Present, Affiliation/Title. Lists attendees and their roles.

Special Guest Speakers:

Bill Grundfest, on preventing fires & son, Zachary Grundfest, founder of Zack's Food Miners
Glen Granholm, VP Safe-T-Proof Disaster Preparedness Co., Burbank
Patricia (Trish) Granholm, VP Safe-T-Proof Disaster Preparedness Co., Burbank

- 3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of April 19, 2017 Minutes: Moved by Jacqueline; seconded by Michael.
5. Public Comment: Bill Grundfest introduced his 12-year-old son, Zack, and spoke on "Zack's Food Miners," a food rescue program...

6. Metal-blade Weed Whackers – Bill Grundfest

Bill returned to speak on the causes of some of our brush fires, notably, those started by metal weed whackers or overheated mufflers of gardening equipment. He noted that Sheila Keuhl supports this; however, he believes she is not considering that we who live in Bel Air are hiring the people who do our landscaping, and that it's a matter of deciding on the approach: either banning these metal blade weed whackers through City Council or letting those you hire know that if they comply with standards, we will recommend them. Daniel Tamm offered to look into the Fire Department's guidelines on brush clearance people. Chuck has called Fire Station #71 about this. Michael Schlenker found the LAFD's vendor list for brush clearance on their website: www.Lafd.org
https://issuu.com/lafd/docs/2017_brush_clearance_vendor_list_0?e=17034503/49734436

Hildreth noted that the Tree People have commented that because we're disposing of the cuttings, we're not building mulch.

Below from top left: Bill discusses weed-whacker-caused fires as Leslie Zinberg, Daniel Tamm, Rob Farber, Gwen Robinson, Cathy Palmer, Hildreth Simmons, Jacqueline Kennedy, Judith Dornstein, Danielle Cohen & Michael Schlenker listen.



7. Earthquake safety proofing “for everything” presentation

- Glen Granholm, Vice President, Business Development of the Safe-T-Proof Disaster Preparedness Co., Inc.
Office: 800-377-8888 gg@safe-t-proof.com

Glen gave a presentation providing an overview and basics on home preparedness, to include but not limited to “fastening systems” which can hold up flat screen TVs, furniture in the home, as well as heavier duty items such as large heavy-duty refrigerators. He began that after the Napa earthquake which was a 6.0, with one death, which was a grandma who got hit in the head by her TV, he was part of that Earthquake Engineering Research Institute’s field survey team looking at non-structural damage in places like the college, the post office, stores, etc. He found that those who took time to secure structure, “systems and space,” had no damage. He noted that cut digits were number one reason people went to the hospital after the Northridge Earthquake.

He suggested googling “Napa earthquake 911 calls.” He described a typical emergency, people stuck in their wood-framed single-family homes, in two-story homes where a vulnerable area is stairwells. The person is in trouble and needs help, may or may not smell gas, may or may not have an emergency kit somewhere, now part of 250,000 people in an area that needs help, within a minute of the earthquake.

He related that a year and a half ago, they were hearing of a 99.9% chance of a magnitude 5 or greater earthquake. He followed up and found out the math was off. He now hears that there is an 85.7% chance that we’ll have an earthquake, 5 or greater within 3 years, as of a year and a half ago. He notes that there is a certainty that we will have an earthquake.

He recommended asking some test questions, noting that anything nonstructural that is not attached to the structure will move. Look at the item and ask: Could it hurt me if it moved? Could it block me? Can it explode? Is it attached to gas? Can it bankrupt me? Can it be a big pain in my rear – dangerous to clean up? The kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house. Secure the item! Look at every room in the house or business, then come up with a priority list on how to address placing nonstructural objects.

He mentioned the FEMA program, “Quake Smart,” a resilience recognition program called “Business System.” This includes a back to business assessment, asking: Can I operate without (Fill in the blank)? Employees will ask “when will I get paid?” He noted that 75% of businesses that do not have a plan before an earthquake hits are out of business very shortly thereafter, and there are sections of the San Fernando Valley that were ghost towns after the earthquake.

He discussed “Engineered Solutions,” a product line which includes adhesive fasteners, sold to hospitals and labs. The patent is on the locking mechanism that holds 300#.

See <http://www.flash.org/quakesmartcommunity/> Included in that website are resources including: <http://flash.org/quakesmart/pdf/Quakesmart-Toolkit-English.pdf> (←35-pages of valuable info.)

Glen related that lot of things are driven by Quake Smart, a FEMA program checklist approach – Secure Your Structure, Systems and Space. He mentioned a Los Angeles mandate to secure/retrofit vulnerable “soft story” houses, such as living spaces above a garage, e.g., if you have parking underneath the first floor of an apartment house, such as those at Northridge, there is a requirement by law that those get retrofitted; “FEMA says that 70-75% of the damage from future California earthquakes will be from peoples’ stuff.”

Glen noted that the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (PEER) <http://peer.berkeley.edu/> tested “Flexible Fastening,” with a 1,000 pound refrigerator/freezer on the shake table, which shook like crazy, but the unit was held to the ground with the traditional method, steel, drilled into concrete, but the unit ripped out, and launched off the table. He showed a photo of the refrigerator which was held only by the flexible fastening. “Flexible fasteners really works.”

Below, Glen Granholm presents Safe-T-Proof products and how they will protect you and your valuables while (close front left), Gwen Robinson, Rob Farber and Trish Granholm listening.



Begin by finding a stud in the wall. He noted that you can use a rare earth magnetic stud finder, which you can get at OSH or online; CH Hansen manufactures them. Find your studs to know where to fasten. “It is critical that you hit the stud, because if you don’t, you are going to have some problems.” He noted that not everything is as simple as to put in fastener to a stud.

He recommends that for anything greater than 400 pounds, get a structural engineer to do it. Don’t let a handyman or any other vendor tell you how to do it.

It attaches to the furniture with a sticky pad; directions discussed further, but will not be detailed herein. Asked what if you want to take it off? He noted that this will hold onto smooth surfaces, you have to put it on finished surfaces or glass, these are designed for labs. There are fasteners that hold up to 1,200 pounds; they put three on each side to secure a 1,200-pound refrigerator.

For a television, use peel and stick fasteners at both end of the strap, fasten to the wall. Some builders are already using these to mount washer/driers in newer buildings. He noted that there is not a lot of enforcement of fastened items at the schools, other than just after an earthquake. This adhesion is a chemical bond that takes 72 hours to hold; it is the same type the airline industry and semi-trucks use, and there is no expiration date.

Denatured alcohol removes it. Treat the surface ahead of time with rubbing alcohol to clean the surface. Use denatured alcohol with a putty knife, one third of the way the thing will pop off.

The building code is designed to get you through one earthquake. They put a disclaimer saying that after 13 Armageddon-sized earthquakes, you'd have to change it.

Below from left, in our American tradition after standing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Seema Hassan, Bill Grundfest, Zachary Grundfest, Judith Dornstein & Leslie Zinberg attentively listen as Glen answers questions and Michael Schlenker prepares to update us on EP Communications.



They use a real strong monofilament line that can be painted to match, even for statuary; a 600-pound test monofilament.

To keep kitchen cabinets from opening during an earthquake, there is an earthquake-activated latch “Seisma-latch.” The earthquake activates the latch and closes the cabinet. You need no tools; it is peel and stick; put it in... set the lock and you’re ready; can do a whole kitchen in 20 minutes.

He spoke about emergency escape light; the siren goes off, says this is an earthquake, get to safety. The light lasts for 48 hours.

He recommended “Peace of Mind in Earthquake Country” by Peter Yanev & Andrew CT Thompson.

He explained an Emergency Radio which you can charge your cell phone with, no batteries, which is solar charged with hand crank. Brochures and business cards were distributed. He'd be happy to have a handyman learn how to do it. He'll teach people that you trust.

He's on the board of a Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning & Preparedness. He noted that there's an emergency conference next month.

He provided flyers on this event: **2nd annual "Emergency Management Conference 2017" Tuesday September 12, 8am-4pm; Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City.** Glen invited us to contact him for further information.

8. **Ham Communications Update – Michael Schlenker** gave a brief intro on the ham radio program, for those that don't know, as backup and emergency communication, using "basically walkie-talkies." He noted that you need a license but it's completely off the grid, so you don't need a battery. He noted that in an emergency, communications go down. This is a backup communications system.

He noted that there is a group with whom he checks in every Saturday morning, so they're all connected through the community.

Michael offered, if your community is interested, to let him know. He also may be able to find someone in your community that might have their ham license that doesn't know about us. He noted that through the NextDoor app, a group in Brentwood, looking to set up a radio group, has now joined Michael's group.

Michael followed up on discussion from our last meeting regarding community alert systems that we may be able to use here as a neighborhood council, that is not just an email chain. He has done some research, has spoken with ISP provider for this NC, and feels he could quickly set up an alert system, using a dedicated email address that gets forwarded to other email addresses and text numbers, e.g., alert@babnc.org. So if you send an email or text to that, it then forwards to anyone that wants to be alerted by email and text, using your phone number at your carrier's address. He noted that this is something this NC can set up. He noted that this is an email forwarding address. Michael related that he has spoken to Web Corner about the ability to do this and will send a proposal to the Outreach Committee; it can then be agendized at the board meeting.

A printout on Reverse 911 was provided. Michael explained that Mountain Gate and Bel Air Crest both use a Reverse 911 emergency alert notification system with VB Data Systems Corp in Arizona. "Somebody actually picks up the phone and gives a message and then triggers to have that sent out to the emails."

He has looked at other apps, a school notification "Crisis Go" <https://www.crisisgo.com/> a mobile Emergency Communications Solution. This has been given to schools for free, so whenever there's a lockdown, e.g., an active shooter – in these times that we live in -- with the press of a button, a teacher can send out an alert to the entire student body and parents.

He is also working with another system, a text email and voice system that can be gotten for 50 people free; he has the free membership now; he did a test today, and out of 12 phone numbers one text didn't go through; not fool proof. This is mostly for businesses.

9. **Questions on getting started, Q&A**

10. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at **9:00 pm.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 18, 2017 (3rd Wednesday every other month)