



**Regular Meeting of the BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017 7:00 pm**

**Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077**

1. **Call to order** – Chuck Maginnis, EP Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.
2. **Roll call & Introduction of Attendees:** This evening, Chuck Maginnis asked four non-board members to join this committee: Ron Cornell, Danielle Cohen, Hildreth Simmons and Seema Hassan. They accepted and will be appointed at the upcoming BABCNC Board Meeting on October 26, 2017.

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCBC Emergency Preparedness (EP) Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC EP HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC’s Franklin-Coldwater District Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, HCEC Ham radio group	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC’s Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC’s Residents of Beverly Glen Representative	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Commercial/Office Enterprise Districts Rep., Treasurer & Budget Advocate	X		Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen (ROBG) formerly Secretary & EP Committee	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham / CERT	X		Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)	X	
Rob Farber, BABCNC’s At-Large Youth Representative		X	Stephanie Savage, BABCNC’s Laurel Cyn. Assn. Rep. & PLUC Vice Chair	X	

**Attendees:**

Robin Greenberg, President Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council (BABCNC) Bel Air Hills Assn.;

Dennis Koci, HCEC Hillside Communities EP Communications Group representing Mountain Gate;

Darby Manning, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)

Stella Grey, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)

Jim Murray, DSPNA, Chair Neighborhood Coordination Cmte., Kings & Queens Roads / Sunset Blvd.

Joan Herman, Bel Air Ridge, EPAC Committee Secretary

Tom Holliday, Bel Air Ridge, background with LAPD

Judith Dornstein, Benedict Hills Estates Association (BHEA); have set up an EP Committee

Andrea Silver, Benedict Hills HOA (BHHA)

Susan Davidson, Benedict Hills HOA (BHHA) Safety & EP; have 5 block captains

Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker

**Special Guest Speakers:**

Faye Cousin – City of LA Emergency Management Department Coordinator; EP Engagement Division

Ben Park, Mount Washington, Arroyo Seco NC Safety Committee (recently got contract with EMD)

[Ron Cornell noted that the HCEC Hillside Communities EP Communications Group includes Michael, Joan, Danielle and Dennis plus members of LAFDCS EMD Volunteer communication group.]

Following the introduction of attendees, Chuck reported that there was a structural fire in his neighborhood. Chuck also applauded Seema Hasssan and the Doheny Sunset-Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA) for starting a new EP committee.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Approval of August 16, 2017 Minutes:** Moved by Michael; seconded by Ron.

**5. Public Comment:** None.

**6. Beverly Hills Preparedness Self-Assessment & 5-Step Plan** Chuck Maginnis, Safety Chair  
Chuck passed out the 12 question Self-Assessment questionnaire from Beverly Hills emergency Management allowed everyone to rate themselves on a one to three scale and providing a readiness score of three states: Unprepared, start now; Close but keep going & You are a Master of Disaster. Everyone took the allotted time and found out more about their readiness. He then passed out a Neighborhood Action Planning sheet with five steps including: 1) Define your area; 2) Recruit Leaders & Participants; 3) Scout Your Neighborhood; 4) Build Your Team; 5) Plan Your Approach.

Below top left to right, Chuck Maginnis discusses self-assessment of being prepared as Hildreth Simmons, Susan Davidson, Andrea Silver, Tom Holliday, Dennis Koci, Ben Park, Michael Schlenker, Seema Hassan, Stella Grey and Jim Murray contribute.



7. **Revised 5-Step Plan to Ready your LA Neighborhood** – Faye Cousin, Emergency Management Department Coordinator <http://emergency.lacity.org/> & Ben Park with the Arroyo Seco NC Emergency Preparedness Committee

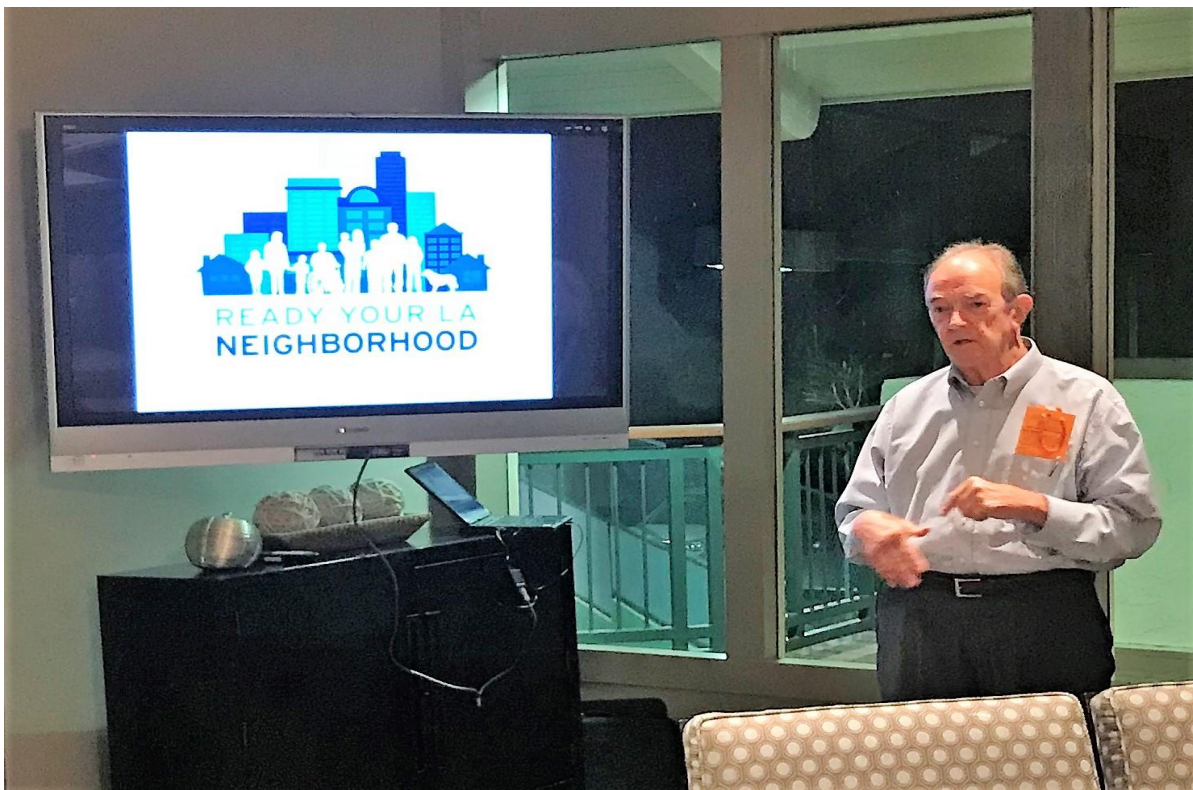
Chuck introduced the presenters, who would be discussing the 5-step plan for emergency preparedness with an emphasis on working on your individual blocks. Chuck noted that Faye has replaced Alen Pijuan (who spoke to this committee on the 5-step plan in February 2017).

Faye Cousin, Coordinator with the City of LA EMD related that she has been with the city for 25 years, 20 with Emergency Management and Operations. One of their new goals is to help people prepare their own neighborhoods. She has worked with Ben Park, to develop a “Ready Your LA Neighborhood” plan.

Faye reminded us all that we can each sign up for “NotifyLA” which sends alerts to cell, landline or email. <http://emergency.lacity.org/notifyla> Faye reminded us that if we’ve already signed up and haven’t heard from them, check your registrations to make sure you are in the system.

Ben Park explained that Ready Your LA Neighborhood brings “[Map your Neighborhood](#)” which will be brought to L.A. citywide starting next year.

Below, after LA Emergency Management Coordinator Faye Cousins introduced Ben Park, he explains their new “Ready Your LA Neighborhood” plan.



Ben came prepared to give a presentation with videos but due to technical problems, videos were not seen; however, he noted that these presentations can be given in one’s living room, using your television screen to see the videos along with work booklets, with about a dozen neighbors. He noted that this includes a skills and equipment inventory, all of which help you to work with your neighbors.

### Some Things to do at Home Immediately Following a Disaster:

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Dress for safety.
3. Check the natural gas or propane at your home.
4. Shut off water at the house main to trap water in our home; keeps pollutants out of possible drinking water like that in your water heater.
5. Place Help or OK sign on your front door or window (like the large 11x14 sample BABCNC signs in red (HELP) and green (OK)).
6. Put your fire extinguisher on sidewalk or where neighbors can see it; if a neighbor has a small fire after a disaster, extinguishers are on hand.

After these steps are completed, go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site.

Form Teams at the Neighborhood Gathering Site:

Team 1 will listen to the Emergency Alert System (AM/FM radio) or to a NOAA Weather Radio and keep neighbors informed of what they learn.

Team 2 will check on neighbors who are elderly, those with disabilities or homes with unattended children.

Team 3 will check all natural gas meters and propane tanks, and shut off the gas only if necessary.

Team 4 will check on all homes with the “Help” card displayed on the front door or window or with no card showing. Be prepared to give first aid. Trust your instincts. If something feels unsafe, stay out.

After your team has completed its work, go back to Neighborhood Gathering Site. Share what you have done with the rest of your neighbors.

Listening to Ben’s presentation, front left to right, are Irene Sandler, Maureen Smith, Dennis Koci, and Dan Palmer. Back from left, Darby Manning, Cathy Palmer, Jim Murray, Robin Greenberg, Stella Grey, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Stephanie Savage, Seema Hassan, Ron Cornell, Joan Herman, Susan Davidson, Judith Dornstein and Faye Cousin.



As to preparing your neighborhood in advance of an emergency, we are invited to call the Emergency Management Department (EMD) who will send facilitators to us; they'll print maps of your blocks and will provide booklets for each person. It was emphasized that while this is not working to create a plan to submit to the city, it's to prepare a plan for yourself for each house; then, you will let the City know which areas are prepared.

He recommended having a disaster drill, for people from 9 blocks, to include CERT people; look for these people in your neighborhood resources.

Captain Wynn is head of CERT. The Fire Department and CERT have four bureaus broken down in to six or eight battalions, which spread to 8-10 fire stations within the 113-114 Fire Stations in Los Angeles.

Faye noted that it is therefore up to us: The EMD has to figure out how to get communications to the neighborhood; including walkie-talkies and ham radio people in your area. Faye continued that we all have to figure out how to take care of ourselves. How is the city going to save me? We are on our own. That is why we need "Map Your Neighborhood" and other plans. Know your resources, who the doctors and nurses are in the neighborhood. Radio up to ham radio operators to find out which hospitals are available, still open for business; then find out who has an SUV to take you to the hospital.

Chuck added that the first responders are going to go to the hospitals, nursing homes, apartment complexes, to take care of mass casualties. He reminded us that most casualties from earthquakes are a result walking on broken glass. Today, we can all put a bag together with shoes, flashlight. Put your shoes on first before looking for the flashlight. Check your batteries; put them in a bag. SOS Survivor Products in Van Nuys sells EP kits. Irene noted that there is a sale now, as tomorrow is the "Big Shake Out." Go to Big 5 – any of the sporting goods stores. Will need a tent, food, and water.

The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) booklet is currently still not completed. Chuck thanked Ben and Faye and welcomed them back in the future.

#### 8. **New Alert Notification Trial & Ham Communications Update** – Michael Schlenker – BABCNC Communications Chair

Michael related that he has set up an alert group through BABCNC for our areas to receive notifications for our neighborhood that don't impact the entire city. He passed out applications. "This is not Twitter, NextDoor or Facebook." He explained rules as to suitable alerts and unsuitable alerts noted on a pamphlet. **Suitable Alerts**: Confirm vegetation fire; call 911 report it; then send alerts; major road closures; expanded vehicle accident where there is usually a fatality clogging a major artery. Water main breaks, sinkholes, bomb threats, police pursuits in our area, etc. **Unsuitable Alerts**: Lost pets, animal fights, neighborhood nuisances, parties, traffic jams; homelessness, personal issues with neighbors, etc. Michael will do a trial for 2 months; he provided forms as well as proposed terms & conditions.

Irene asked how to verify a fire. Michael related "pulsepoint.org" is an app and a computer interface that taps into the LAFD's automated dispatch system. Call 911, who takes down your information, when you hit 'send' it goes to the LAFD, who responds. Then listen to the radio.

**Ham update**: Thursday 11/09 from 8:00-12:00, they'll do a citywide communication drill; will pass information from the community level up. Bel Air Ridge will do a drill all the way to the EOC. You can report from your work or in traffic. Jacqueline discussed need to have all neighborhoods involved in preparedness, however, feels that there should be a citywide mentality for emergency management. Michael noted that the city has budgets, which get cut; so neighborhood councils can place energy on having those officials we have elected to approve budget items for emergency.

Chuck thanked Michael and Ron Cornell for all they have done. Ron has had a radio operation and they have been meeting for 25 years. Michael has come along with Bel Air Crest; back in 2013 they have been involved and spreading the word. Chuck noted that so far we have communications with the Getty, Skirball, UCLA, and other organizations; need North Hollywood; just got somebody from Brentwood.

A question regarding the new BABCNC alert notification rollout is addressed to Michael Schlenker. The group listens, from bottom left: Ron Cornell, Michael Schlenker, Seema Hassan, Stella Grey, Jim Murray, Darby Manning, Danielle Cohen, Cathy Palmer, Robin Greenberg, Chuck Maginnis, Hildreth Simmons, Susan Davidson and Andrea Silver.



Michael related that they are building a network from the Palisades to Griffith Park. HCEC has identified folks in each of our communities interested in communications to be effective in their communities during disasters. They all check in every Saturday morning. They are growing: “it’s open to everybody; not just hillside areas.” Dennis Koci has containers at Mountain Gate. Michael noted it’s not necessary to have a container; some neighborhoods don’t have bins.

Ron added the most important thing is to have an event, something tangible for people to get involved. They had started CB Radio net 25 years ago. He and Michael started up at the Glen Center monthly, and went from 2-3 to 5-6 people monthly, and are pushing to get more people involved in this hillside group. Ron stressed that ham radios are critical for success from a disaster. If the ham radio repeaters go down, they can operate on Simplex, establishing a relay system. “It’s tangible. People can get involved and stay involved.” Michael noted that this NC put money behind four ham radios.

Additional discussion was held. Ben offered to provide a sign up and said he will get in touch with you if you have trouble organizing your block. Michael recommended assigning people. Chuck suggested activities such as a barbecue with drinks in a social setting rather than just coffee and donuts, so neighbors can get to know each other and want to prepare together as well.

Susan noted that they have a shed in their tennis court; they have decided that they will use their tennis court as an immediate triage area. Michael has immediate triage, search and rescue, crowbars, lights, generator, cots. Not food & water; he has medical sponges, gauze, bandages, tables and chairs.

Robin noted that Napa didn't have electronic alerts and asked what about going into your pool during a fire, to which it was noted that one woman died in the pool. Michael related that the Fire Department will tell you to evacuate; however, you have to figure out how to communicate with your loved ones.

10. **Adjourn:** Motion made by Robin; seconded by Stephanie; meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday January 17, 2018 (3rd Wednesday every other month)**