



**BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018 7:00 pm**  
**Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077**

Name		Name	
Chuck Maginnis, BABCBC 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 Religious Institutions Representative	X	Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group	X
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative	X	Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, EP Chair	X
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Treasurer; Business Rep.; Ham licensed	X X	Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen EP Committee member	X
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham/CERT	X	Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)	X
Stephanie Savage, BABCNC Laurel Canyon Association Representative	X	Rob Farber, BABCNC At-Large Youth Representative	X

**Attendees:**

Robin Greenberg, BAHA, BABCNC Board President  
 Susan Davidson, Benedict Hills HOA in charge of Safety and Security, CERT trained  
 Joan Herman, Bel Air Ridge, EP Committee, CERT/Ham trained  
 Stella Grey, DSPNA  
 Ben Park, Roscomare resident  
 Bill Grundfest  
 Zack Grundfest  
 Shelly Seltzer, Colina Glen  
 Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator/Minutes taker

1. **Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair:** Chuck opened the meeting 7:21 pm with a moment of silence to honor those who have suffered as a result of the fires, north and south.
2. **Roll Call and Introduction of Attendees:** Roll was taken with four committee members present initially; Jacqueline arrived at 7:25 pm, for five present and seven absent; no quorum met.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of September 13, 2018 Minutes (Discussion & Motion) – Deferred to next meeting**
5. **Public Comment:**
6. **LA Resiliency and why Angelinos need to be prepared**
  - LAFD Captain Kevin Johnson, EMS /Resilience Officer: Unable to be present this evening, due to the Woolsey fire.
7. **2019 EP Goals, Mission Statement and Resilience Plan**

Michael related that this is a question of whether we just want to be informational as a committee. Other committees have public education, guest speakers or develop a community safety plan, which segues into the “Resilient Los Angeles.” He noted that the city is asking the NCs to come up with a resiliency plan, which will fall upon the board. They’ll ask the board to fill out a form to describe their plan.

Michael related that he attended the EP NC Alliance, and that Conrad Star from Mid-City put together a presentation using map overlays. They are looking many of the tool kits that are already out there, and asking, what are the shocks and stressors for each NC district; e.g., brush fires, faults and seismic activity; liquefaction, flooding, structural engineering, bridges, underground drainage ditches, gas-lines, electric gridlines, things that run into our neighborhoods; that go into gathering spaces where people will naturally gather. He noted that they overlay the FEMA Emergency transportation routes through the areas. It is about identifying these.

Michael noted that this is so that we know in our planning that evacuation routes are not flooded by a dam breaking, among other things. Michael reported that he found the presentation very helping. He has done overlays on his computer to include earthquake faults, flood control, etc.

Below bottom from left: Cathy Palmer, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Maureen Smith, Danielle Cohen, Joan Herman, Bill Grundfest, Zack Grundfest, Ben Parks, Stella Grey, Shelly Seltzer, Michael Schlenker, Susan Davidson & Robin Greenberg listen to Michael’s thoughts on 2019 goals.



Bill asked about water sprinklers for houses. Michael responded that there were fires that could not be put out because people were using sprinklers and hoses.

Michael would like to send out the links that Conrad Star put together. As we start to look at our own areas, as we start to map these things out, figure it out – what are your emergencies going to be, e.g., brush fire, earthquake, flood, gas control; maybe we want to get someone from DWP to talk about how to mitigate high tension lines. He concluded that we could put the information together, have a plan, be ready to put that information into the resiliency plan template.

## 8. HOA updates & other topics of interest

■ Chuck Maginnis & HOA leads – Discussion ensued as to how to get the word out about the weed whacker ban. You can download the ordinance at the LAFD website.

- See webpage: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush/clearance-requirements-contractor-list>

- See the ordinance & brush clearance requirements: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush>

There are phone numbers to call if you see people using them. It is the residents' responsibility to know that there is a law. Chuck related that he spoke with Patrick Hayden from the LAFD. He asked about enforcement, noting that the only way, as we discussed at our NC meetings, would be to have our HOAs report this to their communities. Robin recommended, as Chuck mentioned previously, that we need to share this information with a newsletter. Bill Grundfest recommended that the LAFD include it in the brush clearance notice. Bill added that he learned about wildfires and fire hardening homes, e.g., micro and macro – micro. He has heard that homes are burning from the inside out from embers entering the house. The low-tech response is either prevents that are ember resistant and using the 1/16<sup>th</sup> screens over vents; the other is the trees, shrubs, fuels adjacent to the house, wood decks that are untreated, wood piles, “fire hygiene.” Either replacing attic vents or putting screens up over them, maybe we could get people to do this. Micro: maybe get someone to come and pay them for services involving hardening.

Michael Schlenker brought a sample vent and mesh with honeycomb as an example of preventive measure that homeowners can use to mitigate fires, made by Vulcan, distributed by someone in Arizona. He noted that Bel Air Crest has an architectural control committee, and their ACC has approved use of a fireproof mesh material, for a vent. Bill asked who could install these; Michael demonstrated retrofit caps to go over the vents, at \$75 apiece; he got them from a vendor in Arizona. It fits over your existing vent on the roof. It has a fireproof mesh membrane. The embers are trapped within it between the fine mesh and the honeycomb. They also sell the material separately that one can secure from the inside of one's attic. Screw it internally in the attic vents. The honeycomb is impregnated with a special chemical that will expand. There is video online. He added that the LAFD has a “ready-set-go” to prepare the homes to resist fires. Bill noted that it could be a good business for someone to sell and install these products, which are unknown to most people. Michael described his own personal efforts to mitigate fires, by removing his patio furniture and fabrics outdoors.

See the June 2017 minutes regarding Jim Mosely from SunFire Defense Fire Retardant: <http://babnc.org/docs/34485494-8997.pdf>

Chuck noted that many fires start if an ember lands on the top of our roof; it will heat whatever wood is nearby on the inside, under the tiles, etc., and start a fire. Michael noted that there are “fire-wise communities,” a national program that lists signs and simple things people can do, and that there are grants for the community to learn about this.

Michael mentioned Beth Burnham, Topanga Resident, Founder/Co-President North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council (NTCFSC), who spoke to us at our September 9, 2015 EP Committee meeting. See the minutes of that date. <http://babnc.org/docs/34485290-8679.pdf> Michael contacted Beth to see if Bel Air Crest could do this program.

Below from left: Michael Schlenker displays a sample fire prevention vent as Susan Davidson, Robin Greenberg, Cathy Palmer, Jacqueline Le Kennedy & Maureen Smith observe.



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Susan noted that she was contacted by her insurance company, USAA, who asked if they could send someone to address wildfires. The person came and searched the whole house for issues. The only thing he found was the gutters, which she had just had cleaned.

Chuck asked Bill if he would be interested in looking into grants and how to publicize free fire checks of homes, as a step to get the word out. This would help us educate and disseminate results to the neighborhood councils.

Shelly expressed her HOA is concerned about evacuation; “we would have one heck of a time trying to evacuate” because of bottle-necking, on Beverly Glen and Mulholland especially after the stories of those in Paradise.

She ordered emergency supplies, which included megaphones, which she tested, after alerting the neighbors. Bill noted that Michael raised the issue of rapid alert, spotting fire and alerting; “satellites will not give you real-time imagery.” Other technologies as a city effort could be employed through drones with ability for information and load carrying. Michael noted that the news helicopters took cell phone photos that they sent in to show where the fire spots were located. Danielle noted that drones were used for the Skirball fire. Michael noted that people could also listen to scanners, police and fire.

Shelly was asked and noted that when she did her drill with the megaphone, she announced this is a test or this is a drill. Bill will research this. He added that on a macro level: Can we actually halt wildfires themselves? He noted that there are some interesting high tech things, e.g., NASA

developed materials, a blanket for fire fighters trapped in a fire. He wondered if these types of blankets can be used to drape over sections so that the fire fighters can fight. Susan noted that the problem is that civilization has encroached in wilderness areas. Fires are part of nature. There is such a thing as climate change. We have increased populations. She asked how we can fight a fire with gusty winds. She noted that she has a friend who lost a home in Point Dume, and that this is the new normal. Bill brought up other issues including water management; political issues on how money is spent. “This is something we created. This is all political.” Chuck related that the fire captains have said that they cannot stop a wind-driven fire, e.g., Santa Ana winds, and noted that the winds can change directions.

Robin recommended that this committee should list five or six things that homeowners can do.

Michael related that we need to start, as a group, bringing things to the table.

Identify things in your area; bring it back to the table. If you figure out there are gas lines, this and this and this, we’ll know as a community to go in a certain direction.

Ben Park recommended looking at the new resilience program from the Mayor’s office: [www.Lamayor.org/resilience](http://www.Lamayor.org/resilience) -- the document was put together by the planning department.

Chuck noted that we have Bel Air Ridge, DSPNA, Bel Air Crest and other communities building EP teams.

This evening BAA had an EP meeting at John Thomas Dye; 150 people showed up to hear representatives from the Geological Survey talk about earthquakes.

Identify what you have in each of your communities, including an area that may become the gathering space for a distribution center.

Jacqueline mentioned the other threat – Department of Homeland Security – of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure which would mean power plants could go off; more reason to be prepared.

Robin related that we should all encourage everyone in your area to do a drill, learn how to duck, in case of an active shooter.

Stella recommends the Wende Museum of the Cold War.  
<http://www.wendemuseum.org/about-us/visit>

Ben Parks noted that they have booklets from the Red Cross.

**9. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 (3rd Wednesday every other month)**