



BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 7:00 pm
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
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 HCEC Ham Radio Group	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Treasurer; Business Representative		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:

LAFD Captain Kevin Johnson, EMS/Resilience Officer
 Bill Grundfest, Resident, Linda Flora Drive
 Joan Herman, Bel Air Ridge
 Antoinette Bower, Beverly Glen, former EP Chair
 Tensie Palmer, Residents of Beverly Glen
 Susan Davidson, Benedict Hills HOA, Chair of EP, CERT trained
 Joan Herman, Bel Air Ridge, EP Committee, CERT/Ham trained
 Luisa Bottari, Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA) EP Committee
 Robin Greenberg, BAHA, BABCNC Board President
 Robert Schlesinger, Benedict Canyon Association; BABCNC Planning and Land Use Committee Chair
 Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Association; BABCNC Board member
 Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator/Minutes taker

- 1. Call to Order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair** – Chuck called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm with seven committee members present initially, Hildreth arrived at 7:22 pm for a total of eight present.
- 2. Roll Call and Introduction of Attendees:** Visitors and committee members introduced themselves.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approval of September 13, 2018 & November 14, 2018 Minutes**
Moved by Ron; **seconded** by Dan; **8/0/0 approved.**
- 5. Public Comment:** Susan Davidson brought an article from a law journal that Clare brought to her attention regarding five policy questions your board should consider before appointing an emergency preparedness committee; it includes discussion of liability issues.

6. LA Resiliency & Why Angelenos Need To Be Prepared

■ **LAFD Captain Kevin Johnson, EMS/ Resilience Officer** – Chuck introduced Captain Johnson, and noted that all the neighborhoods have been asked to work on and make their own plans. Kevin Johnson related that “Resiliency” is a core value of the Chief, to foster good relationships, and provide informative outreach. They have four goals to make sure we have an understanding on what to do and on emergency preparedness. He noted that they do not need extra help to do their job but they want to help us be prepared. “Things change depending on Mother Nature.” He noted that they had a virtual evacuation drill with LAPD, Animal Regs and Ham Radio, and talked about how to work this process behind the scenes.

Some recommendations on what to do if something happens: Prepare a Go-Bag, a backpack or bag 25 pounds or less with all essentials; (hand out provided.) During brush fires they may evacuate two hours out, ask for volunteer evacuation; get your go-bags. Half-hour away, they may say “shelter in place.” Even if not an emergency, have your “go bag” ready to go, by a door. Be prepared for “just in case.” For any kind of disaster.

Below, everyone takes note as Captain Kevin Johnson addresses Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness.



They also ask that you may not be able to drive out of your areas; may not be able to take your car; consider walking distances for elderly or disabled; know your evacuation routes, primary and secondary. He would have two ways to get out, depending on how much time that you have. If you are coming in, if it is the wrong time, you may not be able to come up.

They ask for volunteer-evacuations, and mandatory-evacuations are suggested. The longer you stay, once asked, you have surpassed the easier egress, placing you at higher risk. They need to know how many pets you have so they can let the Fire Department know. They then will have to provide shelter in place for them. Their goal is to get to as many areas as they can. They typically know where the residents are, e.g., senior housing, etc.

Bill Grundfest asked if we could see and access evacuation maps. Fire Captain Johnson noted that someone got some old maps and took a fire road and went the wrong way; they had to go rescue them. Through the LAFD's command post, they will tell you which way to go.

Maureen asked for clarification on the difference between fire roads and evacuation roads, and gave some examples. He knows that there are some areas with one way in and one way out and said that you may need to shelter in place; if they know someone is there, they will send a helicopter. Maureen explained that there are paper roads, and asked if we could get the LAFD to help us get those paved, to which he replied that we could go to our councilmembers for that.

Ron Cornell asked and the Captain confirmed that LAFD calls evacuation and Police give direction. Chuck asked about the next step to get paper streets paved as in segments of Sandal Lane to Beverly Glen. Maureen volunteered to take Captain Hogan to look at one of them down Stone Canyon and the reservoir. She noted that developments are there and they cannot even get a fire truck up there. Captain Johnson related that he would like to join them. She noted that the DWP will not let people into the area of the reservoir.

Bill noted that they had to evacuate from the Skirball Fire and that Roscomare and Stradella are so narrow that if someone breaks down or has to back up the whole neighborhood is in jeopardy. The Captain agreed if it is possible to take a bicycle, but that someone is going to be scared and will leave the car in the middle of the street. Bob said he took Chief Hogan for a view of Benedict area.

Chuck asked what percentage EP plays in the Resilience plan. Captain noted that the hot topic in Resilience is dealing with EP, education, CPR at schools, and supporting community events. They make sure to educate people as to Shake Alert, Notify LA, and Pulse Point, etc.

7. Key Issues and Partial Solutions Report on Wildfire Threats

■ **Bill Grundfest:** Chuck introduced Bill who returns today having continued his research on fire-related issues, including prevention. Bill's comments as to wildfire included but were not limited to: There are "Micro" and "Macro" issues. Micro: Fire hardening homes and Macro: Fire hardening the neighborhood.

Fire hardening homes: Things we can each consider: Attic vents. Windstorm showers of embers land on roofs and/or through attic vents. May replace current vents with fancy ones, such as "Brandguard" tumescent vents, where if an ember gets in, it senses the heat, puffs up and prevents the ember from getting into the house. The ember showers find the weakest link, e.g., crack in doorjamb that you did not weather strip, etc. He has spoken to members of NASA and others whom he says all agree that embers are the problem. Less fancy noncombustible wire mesh, an eighth of an inch, will do the trick but not as well.

Fuel around houses, e.g., trees that are flammable, they go up to the roofs and fires spread. Getting rid of whatever fuel you can around the home, e.g., brush clearance; do not keep piles of firewood for fireplaces, wooden decks, fences, patio furniture, get rid of it or place away from your home. Remove fuel from a defensible space, with brush clearance, attic vents, and look at how close the flammable trees are to the roof or neighbors' roof; see if the tree trimmer can get some separation there. The heat from wildfires can blow out windows, an open invitation to the embers. Look for direction that the fire is coming from, e.g., Valley side going uphill.

Below bottom left: Maureen Smith, Joan Herman, Ron Cornell, Danielle Cohen, Luisa Bottari, Rob Farber, Bob Schlesinger, Hildreth Simmons, (off to right) Maureen Levinson, Susan Davidson, Seema Hassan, Dan Palmer, Tensie Palmer, Antoinette Bower, Robin Greenberg and Cathy Palmer taking notes as Bill Grundfest discusses Micro and Macro aspects of fire protection.



Bill noted that there are different products and approaches competing for our business and safety including external water sprinklers that have external water source, that also have sensors so they automatically go when fire approaches, from swimming pools. Pros & Cons: Some people say that can work, though some say only until it depletes the water source from firemen and what about water damage if fire does not come?

Gels and foams that various vendors offer usually last anywhere from half hour to five hours. You need to time it just right because if you evacuate you might be gone for two days, and who can spritz the gel if you have evacuated? The gel and foam sticks and coats the house.

He also noted there is a spray by Sun Fire Defense, called SPF3000, allegedly prevents combustion up to 3,000 degrees. They treat the whole house; good for five years. For a 25,000 square foot house: \$10,000 plus tax.

As to fire insurance, there is no reduction on the premiums; however, he noted that a lot of us are under-insured for fire, not for current value of the house and for rebuilding. If many houses get destroyed the cost for labor and materials go way up. Bill reported that Allstate offers for a \$50.00/month increase to double your coverage. He has heard that there will be further support from insurance companies.

Macro issue: What do we do about the neighborhood? “We can’t prevent fires.” Bill opined that if we can “collapse the time” between initial combustion of a tiny fire to initial response to that fire, that might be the next step that we can get done.

He mentioned systems using thermal imaging cameras mounted on poles on high points around the neighborhood. He thinks we would need a number of them; they would provide 24/7 monitoring using thermal imaging. They detect very quickly when there is an external fire. They have algorithms, can detect this and reduce the number of false reports. They instantly alert the Fire Department or responders with exact geo location. Thermal imaging systems can be mounted on poles, tethered blimps, higher the better, anything taller than a pole will give you a better result. Going up to 300-400 feet you are getting into air space. See link on controlled and uncontrolled airspace (related to use of drones but may apply): https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/where_can_i_fly/airspace_101/

Luisa Bottari asked about companies that come and fire harden your house. Bill noted that not too many companies do that. He mentioned SPF 3000 by SunFireDefense. Wildfires get up to 2500 degrees. They will replace attic vents and do a hygiene check; good for five years.

Captain Johnson stressed that there are new rules as to brush clearance and things we cannot do and that chemical sprays are the last things you want to rely upon. Make sure your eaves are sealed, brush cleared, tree canopy. He noted that most people do not have the shingles but urges looking into LAFD.org, for the brush clearance regulations and recommendations. As to spray, he explained a dumpster fire, wherein the diapers did not burn, because they had the fire retardant on them. He recommends that you remove things from the windows, curtains.

Maureen Levinson asked about the spraying during the Skirball Fire. Bill asked Captain Johnson as to wildfire outside of the macro level, about thermo imaging systems, cameras around the neighborhood that could detect and alert the Fire Department instantly as soon as something combusts. Problem is that LAFD does not know there is a fire until someone calls. It collapses the time between combustion and notification. The Captain agreed that the delayed time is a problem; says it would be an excellent system but costly. He suggests being more diligent on high wind days. High heat, high wind, etc. That would be more cost effective for anyone to do. “Know your neighborhood; your ins and outs...” Maureen noted that there might be issues of privacy, e.g., people and animals. The Captain noted that anything in the air is more dangerous to our helicopters. Susan agreed that it is not good unless it is monitored. Chuck asked about the cost of the thermo-imaging to which Bill said he was not able to get the number yet; otherwise, it depends on the location in your neighborhood. Captain Johnson noted that the terrain would present challenges. As to monitoring, he does not believe the LAFD is looking into this, mainly because of cost.

Ron Cornell would like to have an agenda item for homelessness encampments, who to call before the fire happens.

The Captain continued, as to collapsing the time, the LAFD might be able to get a blimp up over the city; however, would need to deal with the FAA. As regards satellites, he noted that they only pass over every four or five hours. The Captain recommended going to the City Council members and to the Mayor on this as the LAFD would not be able to endorse; and, if the community wants to buy it, there would have to be some sort of validation to say it’s a true fire.

Maureen Levinson asked about the approval process for permit to build with regard to evacuation road, and if the LAFD and LADBS ever denied permits on the basis of the fire hazards. Captain Johnson related that since the Skirball Fire they have more restrictions. Maureen Smith asked about the cuts in the budget that the President has said he wants to put in place. To this and Chuck’s question regarding pre-burning areas to control fire spreading, Captain noted that the Fire Department does do pre-burns and fire breaks, some of which takes funding to do.

8. 2019 EP Goals, Resilience Plan & HOA Updates

■ Michael Schlenker, Ron Cornell & HOA leads – With Michael being unable to attend, Chuck asked Ron Cornell for an update on the Mission Statement he was preparing for this EP Committee. He passed out a copy of the BABC NC Emergency Preparedness Mission Statement DRAFT and asked for people’s input on the language. It reads:

“The mission of the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Committee is to help educate and develop emergency preparedness plans according to recommended protocols for neighboring communities. We also work closely with the Los Angeles City to implement its “RYLAN” program within our NC area and other City initiatives such as “Resilience Los Angeles.”

In addition to promoting emergency preparedness programs, we also strive to develop and expand a “fire mitigation” plan for the Hillside Communities.

The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Committee provides the opportunity for individuals to network and regularly practice radio communications; monitors available community resources for responding to emergencies; and emphasizes that it is the individual homeowners’ obligation to prepare their own homes in case of disaster.”

Motion: To approve the above mission statement: Dan **moved**; Susan **seconded**; Discussion included recommendation to remove the “the” from Los Angeles City; **approved as amended**.

Chuck then related that Michael Schlenker has been working on getting an aerial map and covering our area from the 405 to Laurel Canyon, and Mulholland to Sunset. He showed a BABCNC map with a fault-line overlay which can also be used for flooding areas, bridges, natural gas pipelines and escape route overlays for each community’s safety. Michael’s plan is to have each community develop their own area map. Maureen Levinson related that Bel Air has 84 RYLAN team captains in their area. They stress protect yourself and your family first. Chuck reported that Michael will likely present this concept in more depth at the next meeting.

9. Adjournment: **Moved** by Maureen Smith, **seconded** by Dan; and the meeting adjourned at **8:52 pm**.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 (3rd Wednesday every other month)**