



Minutes

BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 7:00 pm

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

EP Committee Member Name			EP Committee Member Name		
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Franklin-Coldwater Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group, LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, RoBG EP Chair		X
Jacqueline Le Kennedy BABCNC Business Rep & Treasurer	X		Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen; "Keep LA Beautiful" RoBG EP Committee Member	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident EPAC Co-chair, Ham; CERT		X	Seema Hassan, North of Sunset District; Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)		X
Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Association, HCEC Communications; C-PAB	X		Rob Farber, Bel Air Resident; BABCNC Alternate for Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts Board Seat	X	
Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President Bel Air Hills Association Representative	X		Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Benedict Cyn. Rep; Planning & Land Use Committee Chairman	X	

Attendees:

- Armando Hogan, LAFD Deputy Chief and Commander of the West Bureau
- Gregory Martayan, Director of Public Safety for CD5 Councilmember Paul Koretz
- Scott Mitchem, Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Jack Wallis, Atlas Resilience Systems, "Disaster Preparedness Made Simple"
- Jackie Defede, Stephen Wise Temple; BABCNC Faith-Based Organizations Board Representative
- Marlene Hakakha, Bel Air Park Resident and Member of ASC & HCEC
- Luisa Bottari, Co-Chair DSPNA EP Committee (EP Committee Member, Seema Hassan)
- Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker

1. **Call to order** – Chuck Maginnis, Chair called the meeting to order at 07:15pm; quorum met.
2. **Roll Call & Introduction of Attendees:** Committee members and guests introduced themselves.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approve 09/18/19 & 11/13/19 Minutes:** Moved: Maureen, seconded: Jacqueline; approved.
5. **Public Comment:** BABCNC welcomes public comment on any topic not on the agenda.

Q&A with Deputy Chief Armando Hogan & CD5 Public Safety Representative, Gregory Martayan

Luisa Bottari asked Deputy Chief Armando Hogan about construction sites and red flags. She asked what source LAFD uses to make decisions. Chief Hogan related as to red flag days, everything is based on weather. Red flag days depend on wind speeds at 25+ mph and humidity less than 15%. They lift it and declare it 3-4 x a year max. They go to their website to get that information; look at the forecast and see what's projected, and Armando Hogan then says "yay" or "nay." He noted that on other days, Ventura or LA County may have red flag alerts.

Asked how do we know which parts of the neighborhood should have red flag restrictions, Deputy Chief Hogan responded, All Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the hillsides. Otherwise go to [lafd.org](https://www.lafd.org) [https://www.lafd.org/](https://www.lafd.org) and go over Fire Prevention drop down categories which tell you everything.

Asked, what construction activities are prohibited, he noted, "none" – it is folks smoking. He explained that the LAFD seeks to speak to general contractors, usually the person who pull permits, and express concerns that when the contractors sub the work out, workers smoke during breaks. Armando Hogan noted that they are trying to better educate those individuals, and they are looking to see what they can do about signage in the construction areas, to put signage notifying them that they are in the Very High Fire Severity Zones and should not be smoking. They try to enforce that aspect. However, he noted that the LAFD does not enforce "No Smoking" and they do not write tickets; it's mostly the Rangers, and ticketing for parking is done mostly by DOT and LAPD. However, if it is brought to their attention, the LAFD will send someone up there. They'll try to utilize signage and a patrol as a deterrent to try to get people not to do that.

Asked who to alert if we see someone smoking, Armando noted that by the time you call the LAFD, by the time someone comes out, there will be cigarette butts on the ground. He would say it is not unenforceable but it is difficult to enforce. He related that if you see someone smoking you have every right to say "excuse me, you are in a high fire severity zone and I'd appreciate it if you'd put that cigarette out."

Bob gave an example of someone who told a construction worker with a cigarette in his hand that he cannot do that, and he denied that he was smoking. Deputy Chief Hogan related that you can also call one of the local fire stations and hopefully they are there.

Armando Hogan related that they're talking to the council offices, about what they can do on high-hazard days when there is construction going on. He noted that it is difficult to get into having people stop construction, they are trying to explore different options. The biggest thing they are trying to do is to create a point of contact. They just don't have the bodies to go out to all the construction projects. After he speaks with the Fire Prevention Bureau, he'll get back to Bob about what mechanisms are in place.

Greg Martayan, Director of Public Safety for Council District 5, acknowledged that one of the concerns has been smoking in the construction zones. He noted that it is not illegal to smoke on your private property. They are going to look at ordinances that will regulate smoking in a construction area in a HFSZ, and will consult with the City Attorney to see what they can legally do. Greg noted that ideally contractors would self inspect & self regulate.

Greg thinks that the BABNCNC can educate contractors in the hillsides that if a fire originates from the site, that they're on the hook for that fires. He noted it would be easy for the executive team of the NC to issue a letter to every contractor that works in the HFSZ stating that we want you to understand that if any negligence that sparks this fire coming from your property, you are liable. He noted that we can pass these letters around. Greg noted there is usually a person of responsibility at the sites.

Below, CD5 Director of Public Safety, Greg Martayan, and LAFD Commander, Deputy Chief, Armando Hogan, address the group.



Greg recommended to not agitate anyone but the NC can easily find out who the contractor is and easily mail them a letter from the NC. He encouraged mailing rather than going physically to the site. The letter would explain the regulations and concerns in the area, stressing that they ask their staff not to smoke on the property. The letter can be prepared prior to construction beginning. Bob related that he can add that to his communications with project presenters, and have them send that to their contractors, if they have them. (Greg noted this would be a slow process for a letter to come from his office, and that the NC do this.)

Michael Schlenker suggested having this EP committee come up with a letter. Luisa and Ron Cornell will have someone from their respective associations work on the letter.

Armando Hogan invited Chuck to send him a reminder and he will send us a copy of LAFD's verbiage, which would be the same thing that they give contractors that come out. Armando noted that you will then have something that you can say in the letter, e.g., you need to be mindful of ..."

Greg related that if we see something outside of protocol by construction, communicate with Jarrett Thompson and cc him on the email, and promised that they will assist in some way.

Ron Cornell from Bel Air Ridge gave report on EPAC Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee, listing issues of concern:

1) Fire mitigation: Ron noted that they are working with HCEC, coordinating with the neighborhood council regarding this. Bill Kabaker couldn't be here so Ron is speaking on his behalf. They are having a meeting to have a coordinated meeting with EPAC and some neighborhood council people at the Stone Canyon Overlook to discuss the brush area there, the danger of that, and who controls that, and how to get that cut down and mitigated. He noted that they deem this to be a very big fire potential and no one seems to know who is in charge of that. Greg offered to check to see who has responsibility and let them know. It was noted that former board member, Pamela Pierson, worked on getting MRCA to take care of the Stone Canyon Overlook brush in the past. Ron noted that there is a number of property owners in that area, not just MRCA, and that it is quite complicated. Greg noted that we won't know until we look at the map.

2) Goals for this EP Committee: Ron would like this EP Committee to have some set goals at the beginning of the year, and to have some subcommittees that would meet separately, like we are doing for the letter, which will help the different HOAs, to give them something to hand out to those who are not complying. Ron agrees that it should come from the neighborhood council since it is a City-chartered organization. Bob noted that when the letter is written, he could add something as to the Hillside Construction Regulations.

Greg Martayan offered if subcommittees meet during the day and not at night, we could have meetings at our district office, and at the very least one of his deputies will be there, and he would be there.

Below, Greg Martayan and Deputy Chief Armando Hogan continue answering questions while Ron Cornell reports on Bel Air Ridge's HCEC fire mitigation advancements with Michael Schlenker updating on his LAFD ACS achievements, and complimented by Commander Hogan. Surprise guests Scott Mitchem, Dept. of Homeland Security and Jack Wallis, Atlas Resilience Systems, attended providing additional support.



Ron noted we have a subcommittee to write the letter. Michael noted that we could potentially start a subcommittee for the goals which could work a little more on certain topics, e.g., the letter and Ron noted, we should have a separate subcommittee for fire mitigation.

Ron noted that we already have communication with HCEC, which is like an ad-hoc committee; however, he would like to do some communication drills and events which bring people in, e.g., preparedness event, which would bring SOS to sell their products and the LAFD to speak. We have these different HOAs.

Chuck asked who will volunteer to help Ron on the subcommittee to look at goals and outreach. Ron Cornell volunteered to work on the subcommittees' goals with help from Michael. Jack Wallis offered to help though he noted that he doesn't live in the area and later Rob Farber offered to be on this committee.

Greg noted as to the public-private partnership, he would be happy to offer his office to assist where needed. Greg spoke on fire, noting the resilience of the residents, when during the Skirball Fire two years ago, they evacuated 2,000 homes. With the help of many of you, that evacuation happened without any injuries, without any issues; the only issue very temporarily was when they repopulated the entire area. He noted that he feels very comfortable in football that Chief Hogan, in the approach that they have, with the communications that they have, in executing, if there was a large fire. He noted that none of evacuees in the area used the multiple shelters set up by the city. The hotels got sold out but not a single person used their shelters. He saw that residents were very resilient. Others went to family members. He noted that "prevention is all about education." He noted that if you want to come up with ideas on signage, that residents have signs, such as we've evacuated, we're good, so the officer can move on to the next house, that's fine. They moved a major contingent of LAPD Motor officers into the region of the Portola Fire which helped. Anything that helps the city do their job is productive.

As to signage during evacuations, he noted that perhaps a logo that can be on a house for those who are bedridden or people who need help to physically move; such as "this house needs someone to come in to help." Chuck noted that this is something that RYLAN does.

Michael encouraged bringing motions to the board of the neighborhood council, noting that as a committee, we need to utilize that mechanism.

[At this point the subcommittee consists of Ron, Chair, plus Michael, Jack & Rob.]

Rob asked if this would be subject to the Brown Act. Robin noted that this could be a task force.

[This concludes Ron Cornell's report.]

At this point in the meeting, everyone at the table introduced themselves, #2 on the agenda. Comments included but were not limited to:

- Robin would like help evaluating brush in Roscomare Valley.
- Marlene Hakakha introduced herself as a member of ASC & HCEC and a resident of Bel Air Park. She noted that they're trying to navigate the Conservancy to clear their part of the brush and her community to clear their part. She opined that there is a need to be on top of MRCA with their clearance.

Scott Mitchem from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) brought some flyers and business cards here, about what they do; cyber security focused on election security, to make sure the election goes smoothly and there's no sabotage, interference.

Scott noted that **if you have Windows 10 update, update for security issues.** He explained that DHS and Microsoft are working to help people get their updates. Go to Microsoft's website and go to information about the 2020 update. Scott related that he appreciates this group.

Irene asked him if he could present the security issues if we have forums on elections, we don't want to have false information, etc. Greg related that the biggest concern for constituents in future elections will be the automated systems. He opined that people will have less confidence in an electronic system.

Jacqueline asked how real is the threat of manipulation or hacking if we roll out this election, and what are the critical infrastructures that are more likely to be hacked? He replied, as far as election, the County tells him we're good. DHS and the State and pretty much all the counties are doing a collaborative outreach to make sure people know what are the vulnerabilities, and they'll continue to do that.

Scott said that there is no single one way of doing election infrastructure. There's differences from state to state. Infrastructure in your area falls to lines, LADWP, water and power. It would be hard for an agency to get into everything. He explained **however, if they have things tied to Windows 10, there may be concern.** Chuck related that we would like to have Scott Mitchem back, which he agreed to do.

Chuck gave update: Chuck related that Jarrett Thompson from CD5 is going up and down Bel Air Road to see about areas where fire signs are needed, e.g., red flag, no smoking, etc.

Chief Armando Hogan related need to be mindful of putting our signs on MRCA or Cal-Trans or Water & Power property because it makes it unenforceable.

Greg confirmed that Jarrett will go out and see where Chuck wants signs, and will determine with one of the LAFD's inspectors, John Novella.

Bob related that contractors take down red flag day signs from red flag day streets, and that we are having a problem reconstructing what those red flag day streets are. Greg noted that he and Jarrett have the red flag day streets maps. Jarrett is coming out to have practical layout of the signs so it's not a cluster of signs. He recommends that you outline the streets. There is no parking in the entire marked area.

Speaking of red flag days, Armando Hogan related that you have to do an educational program because these red flag days happen so infrequently. They have to coordinate with various departments at 3:00 the day before, e.g., DOT, LAPD, CD office; they start putting it on websites, the city site, and then they'll give you an idea of a number to call. As to the specificity of the location of the sign on the street, if you have painted red curbs, no parking there; 20 feet and less than 20 feet in width no parking; 20-28 feet parking on one side; 28 feet and greater, parking on both sides. He asks, how can we message better? The wireless emergency system has increased characters.

Armando Hogan encouraged us to let him know about the areas of vegetation that need clearance.

Discussion was held as to maps used by the city, as Michael brought up ARC overlays are used in the LAFD's & city's maps.

Armando is asking the individuals, families and communities being prepared to go to the website and verify the information at lafd.org or lacity.org. He asks that we reach out to him, and that if there is any matter of confusion to be sure to send it to Chuck and he'll send it to him.

Discussion ensued as to insurance issues in the hillsides and regarding sheltering in place.

Ron asked if Beverly Glen Centre is a shelter in place zone. Jackie Defede asked if Stephen Wise Temple is officially a shelter in place zone. She hasn't found a list showing that they officially are such. Armando noted that it depends on the fire and that she should plan in case they are needed to do so again.

6. Announcements ☐ Chuck Maginnis

7 Red Flag Streets / Signs, Fire detectors and other updates

☐ LAFD Commander Armando Hogan & Safety Director Greg Martayan – Discussed above

Below, Greg Martayan presented proclamations of appreciation from Councilmember Paul Koretz to each member of our committee. The Emergency Preparedness Committee was thrilled to see that our efforts have been recognized. Thank You! Guest Scott Mitchem, Homeland Security, is also seated at bottom right.



8 LAFD ACS communication updates affecting our area

☐ Michael Schlenker, ACS LAFD back up

Deputy Chief Armando Hogan related that the LAFD likes to utilize ACS as a “force multiplier” from the community.

Michael Schlenker related that a local BABCNC homeowner has generously donated funds to the LAFD Foundation for the LAFD ACS to purchase Ham radio equipment, including antenna, coax cable, and backup battery power supply designated for Fire Station 99.

Fire Station 99 is identified as an LAFD Tactical/Area Command radio relay location in the LAFD Dispatch and Emergency Fallback Communication Plan.

With this equipment, LAFD ACS will be able, at the time of an event, to deploy to the station to provide the Battalion Commanders with a large amount of situational awareness and status information about conditions in their area.

Michael reported that the Mayor has approved funding from the City's Innovation Fund for a solar powered Emergency Data Network pilot project, which will be tested along all five miles of Mandeville Canyon, in Council District 11, where mass evacuation drills are conducted and where the Department has a clear understanding of the issues and shortcomings resulting from these drills.

The pilot project would provide residents access to a City-controlled intranet website where information pertinent to the public can be distributed. When the system is deployed, the City controlled network could also allow first responders to access the network for Communication.

EMD will manage the pilot, with assistance from LAFD ACS. An outreach campaign notifying residents of this system will be facilitated by EMD's Public Information Officer once the system is available.

Greg Martayan related that Councilmember Paul Koretz sits on the Budget Committee and he believes in financing public safety for fires, e.g., an 18 million dollar expenditure for the helicopter, which Greg pushed for. That aircraft was deployed within days of coming into service with the LAFD and it saved lives. This Saturday, Battalion 5 will have an exercise in case of radio failure; setting up citywide communications back to the Battalion house, and to West Bureau and Downtown to Metro Fire.

Armando Hogan noted that they are looking at an option for a robot firefighter and at electric fire engines. They're trying to leverage technology and innovation. They have drone capability for aerial view. They are looking to see what ways they can better provide service. They are looking at where to strategically put out cameras in Very High Fire Severity Hazard Zones in the wildland environment. Asked, how many? Who will monitor? Who will maintain? It's a combination of DWP and LAFD.

Robin asked Armando, and yes they are changing the verbiage and the paint for signs and they do have several keys for the locked gates.

Discussed the Pacific Palisades at Marquez Knolls and the Highlands, there was a locked gate on the MK side, but not on the Highlands side. It opened both ways. If there is a locked gate that shouldn't be, notify your fire station and ask them for a call back when done so we can get back to the NC. It's not an evacuation road. There are no "evacuation roads." They may use one of those roads, depending on the circumstances; but in most cases they won't use them because if after dark, they do not want to send people onto those roads.

Greg related that Councilmember Paul Koretz is at an Airport Taskforce Meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, Greg presented proclamations of appreciation from Councilmember Paul Koretz to each member of this committee.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm. **Next Meeting Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 7:00 pm**