

**Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 @ 7 pm**

**Draft Minutes**

**1. Call to order:** EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

**2. Roll call & introduction of attendees:**

**Present**

**Affiliation/Title**

Chuck Maginnis	Bel Air Resident, BABCNC EP Chair, CERT
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	BABCNC, Budget Advocate
Stephanie Savage	BABCNC & LCA & CERT
Judith Dorenstein,	Benedict Hills Estates VP
Larry Dorenstein	Benedict Hills Estates
Susan Davidson	Benedict Hills HOA
Valerie O'Brien	Laurel Canyon Association, Liaison for EP (CERTx2)
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glen Secretary & EP Committee
Danielle Cohen	Bel Air Ridge Resident & EPAC Co-chair, Ham & CERT
Cathy Palmer	BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker
Ron Cornell	Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, 25 years in this community; ACEC Communications Group Ham
Dennis Koci	Mountaingate Emergency Management; Emergency Communications, Rep on Westside, BP Security, Ham
Officer Chris Ragsdale,	Senior Lead Officer from the West Los Angeles Police Station

**Special Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Mark Goodman, BAA EP Chair

Alen Pijuan, Los Angeles Emergency Management Coordinator Liaison for the public for the entire West Bureau, covering Mulholland to the 10 and Koreatown to the ocean.

**3. Approval of November 9, 2016 minutes:** Moved by Dennis; seconded by Hildreth; approved.

**4. Bel Air Association Revitalizing EP, Mark Goodman, BAA EP Chair**

Chuck introduced Dr. Mark Goodman, who has organized EP for about 2,000 homes. Mark noted that it's a large geographical space, not necessarily contiguous, with other associations that intersperse. He mentioned the change in leadership of the Bel Air Association (BAA) and the challenge of getting people connected who enjoy their privacy. He has chaired EP since the new leadership at BAA. They now have a block captains for given areas, and are looking to integrate them; he expects that the radios will help them do that. They have a number of physicians and are looking to ham.

Mark related that 10 years ago, they had a successful EP plan group but it dissipated, interest waned. This new leadership is starting from scratch. When the new group took the helm, they made a concerted effort among people who are very driven to improve and protect the community. Asked about their meetings, Mark related that they have regular meetings. Ron noted that he insists upon regular monthly meetings at Bel Air Ridge. And he feels that events and drills give interest to the people to want to participate. Using other disasters around the world also helps encourage participation.

Below from bottom left to top: Judith Dorenstein, Stephanie Savage, Valerie O'Brien, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Cathy Palmer, Alen Pijuan, Officer Chris Ragsdale, Susan Davidson & Danielle Cohen listen to Dr. Mark Goodman discussing Bel Air Association's EP success in restarting this program.



Ron noted that they do ham radio drills twice a year and an inter-community drill that then filters down to an intra-community. He expects to do another one in May. He further encouraged getting people to do ham radio training: “Just pass the FCC licensing test.”

Chuck recommended getting email blasts out to recruit interested participants and then planning for EP social parties with invitations to designated areas for the block captains. These gatherings could be either formal with a presentation, or informal with a happy hour or barbeque designed to meet your neighbors and build camaraderie.

Ron's email: [rc4ties@aol.com](mailto:rc4ties@aol.com)

Jacqueline asked Alen what the city is doing about the many parts of the city who do not have EP plan. Alen stated he's working with a lot of organizations, including CERT, and mentioned the Jumpstart program which he hopes will help gain participation. As for the people who are disabled, all of their plans have taken into consideration people with disabilities. He noted that first responders will do a windshield survey to see where the problems are in their area, notate them and report it to the Command Center which then reports to the area

command, and is then transmitted to the EOC, Emergency Operations Center downtown. Mark asked if the Red Cross has a course, to which Alen responded that they do they offer CPR.

## **5. City of LA Emergency Management Dept. 5-Step Plan, Alen Pijuan, EM Coordinator**

Alen presented a plan similar to Map Your Neighborhood Plan by the Red Cross. This is to help you get started on creating an emergency preparedness plan. This plan was created for a low-level neighborhood, 24-40 homes. This is a plan at the grass roots level. It can also be used for larger areas that subdivide into smaller areas which are manageable perhaps with more homes involved.

**Step 1: Define Our Neighborhood;** Find leaders in your community, likely those who are CERT trained, who have energy and willingness to put this together for your neighborhood. Determine what would be the natural boundaries of your neighborhood, preferably with a park-like or public area where you could all meet. “The hardest part is finding the leaders.” While there is no emergency, they are trying to push neighborhoods to develop these plans.

**Step 2: Identify Neighborhood Leadership:** Face-to-face communication is critical to getting people involved.

**Step 3: Know Your Neighborhood Threats, e.g., fires & earthquakes:** Determine the likelihood of the occurrence of these threats, which are listed. You could add particular things that would be a higher threat in your neighborhood; this area’s greatest threat is fires. The current rain falls have presented many issues including landslides and closed streets. **Then have some kind of plan for each type of threat, that you write and practice.** They examine theirs every three years.

Chuck showed examples of the plan by Mountaingate, including photos of their storage containers and street lists. Dennis related that his community has 320 homes and 10 captains with a community map color coded. “It really starts with the individual blocks and block captains.”

Chris Ragsdale recommended incorporating Neighborhood Watch and EP plan with Captain Commands. Chris noted that the FRS radios (family radio systems) are good for internal area communications while ham radios are then good for intercommunity communications. Also, when you take CERT, you’ll learn Incident Command System, ICS (to designate where to go, what to do, e.g. for children and pets.)

**Step 4: Collect Our Neighborhood Contact Information:** Find out what kinds of training they have, e.g., CPR, if they have a disability, children, pets, preferred language, gated premises, guard dog, and renters; whether they have particular skills that may be useful in an emergency, for each household.

**Step 5: Designate a Neighborhood Gathering Place:** Have a designated place, where everyone can meet; a park ideally, to share information, to have first aid, for childcare and pet care. Have a phone tree as part of your plan. Just go to one location instead of trying to find people all over the neighborhood. At this location, you should have a command post for central communications and command authorities. The idea is to know individual neighbors, block captains, who will report to a central command.

This plan is also ideal for a condominium or apartment building.

Chris Ragsdale recommended having a location farther away from the zone, both inside and outside the zone. If there’s an issue where people are going to be closed in and people are going to be evacuated, to have both.

The gathering place should be in a safe location. If your neighborhood doesn't have a plan like this, you should have a family plan, to know where you're going to meet.

Mark asked if the captains team up with the LAPD or LAFD, and Chris responded that those with CERT training particularly would.

Ron Cornell related that HCEC ties in the hillside communities to then communicate with the Fire Department. They coordinate with the Fire Department.

NotifyLA is their system of alerting the public of problems. Ron noted that Michael Schlenker has the Pulsepoint app to get information on vegetation.

Ron stressed the importance of doing drills, which helps to get people more involved. He noted that we're having an EP Fair in April at Bel Air Ridge. When you do these events, you get people involved. The HCEC group, three to eight people, check in every Saturday.

Chuck noted that you could do this just for your block captain areas; doesn't have to be big. There's a Monday night net all over the city; divided by battalions. BA Ridge is battalion 10. WLA is battalion 9.

Below from bottom left to top: Larry Dorenstein, Judith Dorenstein, Stephanie Savage, Valerie O'Brien, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Cathy Palmer, Alen Pijuan, Officer Chris Ragsdale & others listen to Ron Cornell addressing HAM Radio Communications as it relates to Alen Pijuan's streamlined and very effective Emergency Management presentation of the 5-step plan.



## **6. HAM Communications Update, Michael Schlenker / Ron Cornell, Communications (Michael is absent)**

Ron Cornell gave a history of their work on this effort involving empowering the community by training them on use of ham radios. Members are increasingly getting their ham licenses. He encouraged taking the courses, and “eventually move up the ladder and up the mountain.” They’ll be doing another course in March, 11<sup>th</sup>, here 10:00 am to 1:00pm: Introduction to Ham, what you need to learn to pass the test. Exam is on the 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to 12:30, first hour cram session; what you need to know. “With a little bit of practice, you can pass the test.” Email him or Michael Schlenker, Chairman Bel Air-Beverly Crest Emergency Communications Committee, LAFD ACS Battalion 10: [KD6BAC@gmail.com](mailto:KD6BAC@gmail.com) – otherwise email Chuck: [cmaginnis@babnc.org](mailto:cmaginnis@babnc.org) Ron continued that ham radios go out of the community, can tie you into other groups...in an emergency cell phones and land lines will be useless. You can get ham radios from \$45 and up. Join their ACEC weekly net, a once-a-week session. They also have refresher courses.

Danielle shared her experienced with the course, said she learned electrical information which was very helpful. “The one class and the one cram session helped tremendously.”

Judith asked what good it does to have only a few ham radios in your community, to which Ron recommended that each community have an intra-communications source and ham which has different levels of communication, both inside and outside. Dennis related that ham connects intra-community communications up to a central command.

Chuck added that he has an email list that he’s trying to expand, especially to have people flanking each side of the neighborhood Council area in the event of an earthquake or fire. Ron noted that ham radios are the best means of communicating intra-community and inter-community. Intra involves walkie-talkies, for which you don’t need a license.

## **7. Survey Monkey EP summary results, Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Chair**

With limited time left Chuck mentioned only one survey finding that only 25% of their neighborhoods were felt to be prepared.

## **8. Round table EP start up discussion Q&A**

**9. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm