



BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2017 7:00 pm
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

1. **Call to order:** EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis, called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.
2. **Roll call & introduction of attendees:**

Present

Chuck Maginnis
Bill Grundfest & son, Zachary
Jacqueline Le Kennedy
Irene Sandler
Dan Palmer
Ron Cornell
Joan Herman
Susan Davidson
Seema Hassan
Cathy Palmer
Michael Schlenker
Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT

Affiliation/Title

BABCNC EP Chair, Bel Air Ridge, CERT
Bel Air, off Roscomare, here in response to recent fire
BABCNC Treasurer, LA City Commissioner, Budget Advocate
BABCNC, Bel Air Crest Master Association
BABCNC, Residents of Beverly Glen
Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, HCEC Ham radio group,
Bel Air Ridge, EP Committee Secretary
Benedict Hills HOA (BHHA) Safety & EP
Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association, public health
BABCNC Administrator
Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC/HCEC Communications

Special Guest Speakers:

Jim Moseley, Founder & CEO, Sun Fire Defense Fire Protection for homes and structures
Annmarie Aronoff, Sun Fire Defense, Marketing, Operations

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of April 19, 2017 Minutes:** Moved by Ron; seconded by Jacqueline
5. **Public Comment:** Chuck opened the floor to public comment, and introduced Bill Grundfest.

Bill Grundfest: Bill introduced himself and his son, **Zachary**. He related that the week before the Roscomare fire there was a fire in Brentwood, and would like to know what caused the fire. He related that brush clearers use weed whackers with metal blades, and that metal causes a spark when it hits a rock. He has spoken to City Council about this but found that regulations on this would be unenforceable. He would like to raise awareness that this would be avoidable if we hire brush clearance providers with non-metal blades, e.g., blades in plastic casings or plastic. He stressed the importance of working with people who are insured and have fire extinguishers with them. He stressed the need to get the word out, that these fires are preventable; that we need to communicate this information by emails, posters, lawn signs, on lampposts, by ham radios, etc. He noted that we are in the middle of brush clearance season, and opined that undocumented workers who start fires will not stick around. He recommended making this a market situation: Ask the workers/companies, “Do you use metal blades?” and be willing to say “no.”

Susan Davidson suggested using goats, brought by goat herders. Chuck and Irene related that the NC has already considered goats; however, found that are some issues. Irene related that she had called their landscaping company who noted that it is not practical to have just the nonmetal blades. This Thursday Mr. Grundfest will be trying out a worker using plastic-encased blades, who is insured and has fire extinguishers with them. Irene related that rather than carrying an extinguisher, while brush clearing, as they are too heavy, to use a ham radio to contact someone if there is a fire starting, as soon as possible. Irene noted that there are many trees that are not trimmed on Mulholland, e.g., pine trees, and wondered who addresses these, HOAs or individuals? Susan responded that they have an arborist who comes and checks all the trees. Ron also has an arborist, but considers the recommendations of the arborist questionable.

Chuck gave update on the special event at the Mayor's Getty House, where he was able to go into a house with a simulated earthquake.

Chuck related that Patricia Hearst called and was trying to get in touch with Steve at Mountain gate, and within a matter of minutes of the Roscomare fire, Robo-Call contacted 200-300 of their people immediately. There was brief discussion of these notification systems, which are a type of private reverse 911.

Chuck related that he was invited to Getty House, the Mayor's home, with regard to earthquake preparedness. He took the Earthquake Cottage Ride, which simulates a 7.5 earthquake up to an 8.0.

He also asked the Mayor about the Early Notification System app (the plans for which were explained to us at previous BABCNC board and EP meetings) to which the Mayor told him that it will be ready by the end of 2017, and later corrected himself that it is by the end of 2018. Chuck recalled that Debbie Weiser, Ph.D., from US Geological Survey, Pasadena, said that they needed a ton of money, and Mayor Garcetti said someone had donated \$250,000 (which Chuck noted is a drop in the bucket.) The system is supposed to give you 30 seconds of notification before a major earthquake hits. Some of the people present at this evening's meeting noted that funding for this has been cut out of the Federal budget.

6. Importance of Emergency Preparedness: Five-Year Home Fire Retardant Guarantee Presentation Jim Moseley, CEO SunFireDefense

Chuck introduced Jim Moseley, Founder & CEO, Sun Fire Defense Fire Protection for homes and structures and Annmarie Aronoff, Sun Fire Defense, Marketing, Operations.

Jim offered to give a demonstration of his product (which he already gave to the BABCNC Board recently); however, the demo was declined out of concern for fire safety. He related that the product he has developed has won several awards; it is a "3,000-degree spray" described as "a permanent thing" in contrast with gel and other products.

Jim noted that one can apply this to your home, put a water-based stain on it; it is warranted for five years. The spray is over a foil that deploys over a window. If a fire is coming, you put these covers on the windows.

When they do the application, they have a fire person on the premises. He noted that this is a green product. Spray the hill; spray around premises; no matter how much clearance is done.

If you have the structure sprayed the fire will only last 5-7 minutes on that house. They passed a test with Department of Energy Bonneville Power, who treated one pole and not the other, and gave it a shock like a lightning strike, and the report – half a million volts, one went out in five seconds.

Below, Jim Moseley demonstrates in a previous presentation, how a treated piece of wood with the Sun FireDefense clear spray, can withstand a 5000-degree MAPP gas torch.



Cost is \$3 to \$5 a square foot. The coverings for the windows run \$10.00 square foot. A 5,500 square foot house costs \$16,000 to treat, including decking. The actual area sprayed was 4,000 square feet; he did not spray stone.

Below, this small home demonstrates how effective the treated versus the untreated wood is protected.



He related that it is Prop-65 compliant and withstands 2,400 degrees in hottest reported wildfires. They treated insulation, which won a contract to treat the buildings in Dubai. He mentioned looking at parts of the house that need it more than others, e.g., kitchen, hot water heater.

It dries clear. It has termite rot repellent. It penetrates the material. Fire tears through the wood; there is charring on the treated wood.

Mr. Moseley noted that this is featured internationally on the Discovery Channel and various news outlets worldwide. They spray this in horse stables. They are working with insurance companies to lower rates with us. Holmes Fire is helping them. They are going for a two-hour structural test.

He would drop the price for 50,000 square feet or more.

7. Getting started -- Continued, Recruiting, Block Meetings – Chuck Maginnis, EP Chair

For those who were not here recently, Chuck reviewed recent accomplishments, including that the newly restructured Bel Air Association has used an email blast to recruit volunteers and got 55. Chuck gave information about the BABCNC website minutes, and there was discussion about his list of residents for the last 3-4 years. Michael noted that he loves the list for PR for the group versus use for an emergency. “It’s a lot of emails to go through during an emergency.” Michael was able to use his list for the Mandeville fire. Irene related that it matters how the Emergency responders feel about this. Michael would like to adjust Chuck’s list for his purposes of reaching more targeted individuals. Ron recommended that we get a list where we can specifically target people in our neighborhood. Dan noted that there should be a communication protocol for each canyon as to who needs to be notified, alternates, and suggested that this be taken up in the communication committee since it is about communication between one canyon and another. Ron suggested that their committee tackle this and report to Chuck – “to retool.”

8. HAM Communications Update -- Michael Schlenker, Communications Chair

Michael noted that they had a great drill Mandeville Fire, sent their reverse 911 blast. He noted that his cell phone died and having a ham radio was very helpful. Irene noted that she did not receive the blast. Michael noted that Bel Air Crest was not endangered so they did not send the blast to that area.

Next Ham Class will be in Agora Hills in July: <http://www.qualitymatrix.com/hamclass/>

Next CERT Class begins July 11 in Sherman Oaks:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lafd-cert-sherman-oaks-tickets-34142102949>

Susan asked Michael to come to their annual HOA meeting to speak on Emergency Preparedness. Michael related that neighborhoods are asked to invite us to their communities. He noted that Benedict Hills Estates Association has a ham radio operator, Dr. Jon Perelman.

Michael has also reached out to the Palisades Highlands ham group on the other side of Mandeville Canyon, so “we have communication now with the Palisades Highlands group.” Michael also had a meeting with the Getty about implementing ham. They don’t have any ham radio people as of yet. Seema Hassan expressed an interest in having Michael speak to her association (Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association)

9. Round table discussion on successes, Q&A

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday August 16, 2017 (3rd Wednesday every other month)