

Emergency Preparedness (EP) Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC)
Tuesday, April 3, 2012

GHNNC office, 11139 Woodley Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Announcements and General Discussion

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the same location (GHNNC office).

- The meeting began with introductions, names and interests in EP.
- There is a fire safety app available for smart phones, and also CERT information; many thought this would be essential information to keep on hand. Available through Amazon, Apple, etc.
- Bill Hopkins reminded everyone about the various EP guides available at this meeting, and copies were passed around.
- The American Red Cross and the 99¢ Only Stores have together put out a guide of recommended emergency supplies. That too was distributed.
- Linda Pruett mentioned the Lake Balboa EP meeting, the second Saturday of each month, at the Flyaway bus terminal (Saticoy St. and Woodley Ave.). Their April meeting will discuss protecting your family in case of a nuclear contamination event, such as terrorists' setting off a dirty bomb, or a leaking nuclear power reactor.

Featured Talk: Assisting the Disabled in Emergencies

Speaker: Tony Willis, a long-time CERT volunteer and EMT, with 35 years' experience in the medical field. Tony has been active with CERT since 1993, served as CERT Battalion coordinator for Batt. 12, and responded to many incidents as a trained CERT volunteer. He's currently assigned to the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's station working with their Search And Rescue (SAR) team.

Tony spoke of his 30+ years in the medical field, including as an EMT and in hemodialysis. He was married to a long-term diabetic who eventually suffered amputations. He gave examples of the adjustments needed in homes to accommodate the disabled.

In an emergency, situational awareness is important. For example, EMTs assisted a girl who was unresponsive to their questions, leading them to believe she had serious issues. They failed to notice she was deaf and could not hear their questions.

In trying to move disabled people, it is important to ask them what would work. The disabled will know, better than you will, what works best for them. Always use a partner in moving someone who cannot move, lest you end up dropping them or injuring yourself. Some disabilities are not visible; always ask.

Map your neighborhood. You can deal with a maximum of 15-25 families, no more. Map out ahead of time which houses have disabled or elderly people or who may need extra help. Also map out where potential help could be: homes of construction people, medical personnel, etc; and map out the possible level of supplies.

Which people need electricity to survive? And what happens when the power goes out? Identify those who are vulnerable, and work out a plan.

Foreign language TV stations may be able to help with informational material in their language (e.g., Korean, Filipino, etc.)

Always have leather gloves around for helping with persons in wheelchairs and dealing with potential broken glass.

Ham (amateur) radio may be essential in communications when all other modes are down.

Keep an emergency kit; make sure it includes safety goggles and duct tape.

There was a discussion of the Van Norman Dam near us (MWD land behind Woodley Ave.). Their chlorine storage tanks were discussed – there is enough there to kill several thousand people when released as a gaseous cloud. The chlorine is used in purifying the water in the reservoir. Apparently, the stored chlorine is defended by concrete bunkers and the MWD keeps hydroxide to neutralize the chlorine gas in the event of an emergency.

There was a general discussion of the need to get to know your neighbors now, before an emergency, and of mapping your immediate neighborhood.

The water needed per person per day is more like 3-5 gallons for drinking, cooking, and sanitary requirements, not the 1 gallon usually heard. The 1 gallon is strictly for minimum drinking requirements.