

Emergency Preparedness (EP) Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC)
Tuesday, February 5, 2013
7:00 p.m.

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

Announcements and General Discussion

Available handouts for all attendees:

- Pink flyer: Suggested EP items to stock kits for car and pets.
- Yellow flyer: Suggested EP items for 72-hour kit and gift ideas to help friends and loved ones stock their EP kits.
- Salmon flyer: Organizing Vital Records and Home Security.
- Purple flyer: Nuclear Safety Checklist.
- Blue flyer: CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) information and syllabus. An accompanying white flyer explains the requirements for all CERT levels (1, 2, 3).

Hams: Lake Balboa Sunday Morning EP simplex net, 9:00 a.m., on 145.570 MHz. All licensed amateur radio operators encouraged to check in with net control.

Linda Pruett, Lake Balboa EP chair, announced their next meeting is on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 at 9 a.m. at the FlyAway at Woodley and Saticoy in Van Nuys. Everyone is welcome.

Attendees received Emergency Water packets and anti-septic wipes for their emergency kits.

Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that there were many handouts on the table. He also mentioned several upcoming training classes hosted by SOS Survival Products (www.sosproducts.com, 15705 Strathern St. #11, Van Nuys, 800-479-7998) in their training room.

Capt. Cooper (christopher.cooper@lacity.org), who supervises the LAFD CERT unit, was welcomed and discussed a new training direction for LAFD CERT this year. Their long-range goal is to train 1 million Angelenos in the CERT program. To that end, they will be holding large (100-150 student) classes. There will be a primary, very experienced instructor, with several junior instructors helping. He also took questions from the attendees about CERT quarterly refresher sessions and related CERT topics. At his request, and per the consent of those present, Bill will send him the contact information of those who signed the roster. Capt. Cooper was invited to attend future EP meetings.

Featured Talk:

Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergencies and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage. In addition, working together as a team and contributing as an individual develops stronger communities and improves the quality of life in the community.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to showcasing the *Map Your Neighborhood* program. This is a neighborhood preparedness training program developed by Dr. LuAn K. Johnson, Ph.D., under the Washington State Emergency Management department.

This unique program is designed to easily and quickly teach participants how to make the most use of those precious golden 60 minutes immediately following a disaster, when normal emergency response will be unavailable or greatly delayed. Bill showed selected portions of the video presentation, distributed on-loan Participant Handouts (a multi-page guideline) for review, and discussed how the program can be implemented.

There are several components of the program. An important step is that neighbors are personally invited to attend a meeting at a neighbor's house. The meeting generally lasts 2-3 hours, during which a video presentation (with frequent pauses) is watched, and participants complete portions of the Handout, or "Shingle." The Shingle is key to the program, and consists of a tabbed or "waterfall" presentation booklet. Each of the 8 tabs opens up to a section with specific help and instructions.

Following along with the video, neighbors complete portions of the Shingle that include:

- Learning the 9 Steps to take immediately following a disaster.
- Making a simple map of their neighborhood to identify their property, and mark locations of utilities (gas, water, electric).
- Recording information about each neighbor, such as name, phone numbers, email addresses, names of family members likely to be there, pets, and special-needs persons.
- Identify where there may be children home alone, and where there may be others needing assistance, such as the elderly.
- Choosing a neighbor Gathering Site and Care Center (two different locations within the local neighborhood boundaries). Generally these will be someone's home.
- Identifying those neighbors with special skills (teacher, carpenter, electrician, handyman, organizer, etc.) and where tools and equipment valuable in a disaster are located.

Also included with the Shingle are "Help/OK" signs. When the neighbors leave the meeting, they each have a copy of the Shingle, with all the pertinent information filled in, so it is instantly and readily available.

After the presentation, Ted Synder, a GHNNC stakeholder, talked about the recent MYN meeting he conducted at his home, and the enthusiastic response from his neighbors. As part of that meeting and with the Shingle in hand, we took a quick tour of the neighborhood to physically verify the location of gas and water shutoff valves, and the main electrical service panel for each residence. Proper sequence for turning all the circuit breakers off and on, should that be necessary, was demonstrated.

Also, each attendee received a laminated "Water Shut Off" tag to place on the water shutoff valve leading to their dwelling.

The 9 Steps to take immediately following a disaster are:

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Dress for safety.
3. Check the natural gas at your home.
4. Shut off water at the house main (not at the box in the parkway).
5. Place the appropriate HELP or OK sign in your window or on your front door.
6. Put your fire extinguishers on the sidewalk or road edge.
7. Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site.
8. Form Teams at your Neighborhood Gathering Site.
 - i. Team 1 monitors broadcast stations for situation updates.
 - ii. Team 2 checks on elderly neighbors, disabled persons, and children home alone.
 - iii. Team 3 checks each home's utilities and responds accordingly.
 - iv. Team 4 checks all homes with "HELP" signs displayed and takes appropriate action.
9. Teams return to the Neighborhood Gathering Site to share the Neighborhood's status.

Several of those present indicated they would be interested in hosting a MYN session in the near future. Bill will work with them to facilitate a neighborhood presentation.

More information about the program may be viewed online at Washington State's EMD website, http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/myn_resources.shtml.