

Emergency Preparedness (EP) Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC)
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

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

Announcements and General Discussion

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the same location (GHNNC office). Will feature speaker Tony Willis on the topic of assisting people with disabilities in a disaster.

Mark your calendar for the Disaster Preparedness Fair on **Saturday, October 6, 2012, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**, at Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd., just south of Devonshire St. Presented by the North Valley Emergency Preparedness Team (a coalition of valley Neighborhood Councils, including GHNNC). Food is served noon to 2:00 p.m.

Free classes at SOS Survival Products.

- EP class, Saturday, March 10, 2012.
- Intro to Two-Way Radios, Saturday, March 17, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Hams: Lake Balboa Sunday Morning EP simplex net, 9:00 a.m., on 145.570 MHz.

A number of handouts regarding upcoming events were available for attendees, including:

- Flyer for CPR training with AED by Stacy Gerlich. This is condensed training and will *not* qualify for CERT 2 requirements.
- Abilities Expo at L.A Convention Center, March 30-April 1, 2012.
- *Emergency Survival Guide* produced by L.A. County.
- LAFD “Dalmation guide” (older version; provided during CERT Level 1 training).
- SOS Survival Products sale catalog.

Bill distributed three color-coded EP flyers, with most of the content courtesy of Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Committee. Bill requested additions, changes, and corrections—bring to next meeting or send to Bill via e-mail.

- 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.

There was a brief discussion about fire extinguishers: Need to regularly check your fire extinguishers (daylight savings time switch is good time). There is a 10% failure rate.

How to store gasoline at home? Use red metal containers specifically for storing gasoline, not a plastic container. Can also consider the gas in your car as fuel for a generator in an emergency. Gas quickly degrades over time.

If stranded in a car, what would you most want to have with you? Walking shoes, sunscreen, backpack with supplies, water.

Include food in EP kit that your children will want to eat and that does not require heating or water.

American Red Cross is working with 99¢ Only Stores to provide EP items; will be displays in the stores.

Featured Talk: American Red Cross (ARC) Disaster Services

Speakers: Red Cross volunteers Marc Meredith, Vice Chair of the West Los Angeles District and Nick Hippisley-Coxe, Chair of West Los Angeles District.

Be ready: ARC is always getting people ready for a disaster (training, informational websites; publications) and getting itself ready (has 83 shipping containers throughout L.A. County with emergency supplies for setting up shelters, etc. No food items are stored.).

Website: PrepareLA.org assists the public in getting ready. (Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.)

Working with CERT: ARC is working closely with Capt. Stacy Gerlich. After CERT's immediate efforts are done in a disaster, ARC is hoping the CERT volunteers will take off their green vests and put on the red vest to assist ARC's efforts.

ARC's many roles in a disaster:

- **Mass Care**
 - *Shelters:* The biggest thing that ARC will bring to a large-scale disaster. Provide basic needs: place to sleep and eat; healthcare and mental health care provider; child care.
 - ♦ Per health regulations, pets in shelters not allowed except for care animals (seeing eye dogs, etc.); work with the humane services to bring in mobile shelters for smaller animals, and arrange places to board larger animals such as horses, because many people do not want to leave their pets.
 - ♦ Have agreements with LAUSD and L.A. Recreation and Parks dept. regarding shelters. There's a national shelter registry. ARC does not let people know prior to a disaster the location of evacuation centers because they can easily change depending on the circumstances. Listen to the news after a disaster for locations.
 - *Mass feeding in community (apart from shelters):* Distributes meals in disaster area, sometimes in conjunction with Salvation Army.
 - *Comfort Kits:* Gives the public comfort kits (hand gel, sunscreen, personal care items) and cleaning kits (brooms, mop, bucket). If you give someone a broom, it can give that person control over one part of a solution and make him or her feel better.

- **Damage Assessment:** Some services provided depend on the Damage Assessment report, such as individual/family help with emergent needs.
- **External Relations:** Get info to the public. Work with DWP, Fire Dept., Police Dept., Humane Society. PrepareLA has an agreement with KNX radio and channel 7 TV.
- **Health Services:** RNs, EMTs, etc.
- **Operations Management:** Has a substantial Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in West L.A., from which they can run an entire operation. Has back-up generator. Has a mobile vehicle as well that can take the place of the EOC if damaged/inaccessible.
- **Safe and Well:** If in a disaster area, you can register yourself with ARC as “safe and well”—a central place to let family and friends know you are OK. Also recommended is having a designated out-of-state contact whom relatives and friends would contact in time of disaster. Out-of-state is recommended because long-distance phone lines are generally more reliable and less crowded than local lines.

Disaster Action Team (DAT): In smaller disasters, DAT is sent out to assess the damage and clients are given short-term assistance such as food, clothing, and a hotel room for up to 3 days. In a large disaster, after the first 72 hours, Client Case Work is done to help people in the long-term. After Hurricane Katrina, cases were open for years.

Cleaning and restocking: After shelter is closed, cots and blankets are cleaned and repacked; supplies are restocked.

Suggestions for keeping informed of local disasters:

- LAFD Twitter feeds.
- Public safety info on nixle.com: Can specify the types of notifications you want; put in your ZIP code to find out why a helicopter is flying in the area.
- Monitor police and public service bands.

Report community problems: Can call 3-1-1. There are smart phone apps to take a picture and send coordinates.

There is shelter training for interested volunteers. Volunteer and spread the word.