

## **Mt Washington Neighborhood Meeting**

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

6:30 pm @ Nancy Nickerson Residence

**Re:** Introduce **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training for Mt.Washington and the **Disaster Drill** scheduled for Saturday, Oct 18, 10am-2pm.

**6:50 pm Nancy** welcomes all to introductory **CERT** meeting. More than 34 neighbors are in attendance & have signed in. Nancy introduces:

**Sylvia Robledo** from **Gil Cedillo's Council District 1 office, CERT trained; Phil and Tom**, Neighborhood Watch (un-official) Captains; **Roy Payan**, **CERT** coordinator whose Disaster plan for Montecito Heights is the template for all neighborhoods; and **Ben Park**, who along with **Nancy**, has participated in **CERT** Training and will share how to sign up, join email lists, etc.

**Nancy: Goal for tonight: Neighborhood Preparedness.** Shared how an elderly neighbor with Parkinson's called her last night to thank her for efforts and to alert her to two other neighbors who would need help during an emergency. This is proof that this training is very necessary. Gives floor to **Neighborhood Watch team.**

**Tom Allen :** Need more volunteers to expand watch. Meet on-line and get together a few times a year. Area covered is from Jessica to Division.

**Phil Eng:** Use email lists to stay in-touch and text if incident is occurring. He hopes to extend watch to Cleland & further, as use of Church and Park are natural common areas during an emergency. **CERT** is a natural extension of Neighborhood watch.

**Phil:** They are not really Captains, but do monitor email list & radio and step in if something is going on. List is mostly casual & used mostly for neighbors to share contractor information. Reiterates that texting is best during actual emergency situation.

**How to sign up for Neighborhood Watch:** Contact directly, not through someone who knows Phil or Tom. They need to meet, screen & verify volunteers.

**Nancy:** Mentions **Nextdoor.com**, a private website as social media for neighbors and a new website created for Disaster Training and the upcoming Drill:

<http://mtwashingtonjessica.org/>

**Ben:** Right now focus is on Mt. Washington-Jessica neighborhood. Sign-in map shows borders from El Paso, up Cleland to Division and San Rafael.

**Sylvia:** She met Nancy and Ben at **CERT** training. She was there as a response to data collected from "Listening Tours" conducted by Council District 1. **Public Safety** is a big concern. The goal is to set up **CERT** teams all over the area and connect to Mt. Washington. She lives at 41<sup>st</sup> & Figueroa in Sycamore Grove.

**CERT is a great tool for organizing and addressing many neighborhood issues** such as brush clearance and fire. Council District is working with Fire Dept to make brush clearance reporting & collection of funds more effective. Currently, separate departments handle clearance compliance and fee collection and they are not well coordinated. Another issue is trash cans being left out which may restrict access on narrow streets during a fire or disaster. City of Los Angeles wants to move forward with **CERT** Training and drills in every neighborhood. Classes are currently offered only at night & will soon be offered after 8am on week days at schools.

There is a Jazz Festival in Sycamore Grove Park from 11a-6p this weekend, 8/23-24. Council District #1 wants to be a center for the Arts. We have the SW Museum and Lummis House, etc. A new Council Office is opening on Ave 56 & Figueroa. All neighbors are invited to resolve issues involving City Services with the Council Office. Most neighbor issues that the council office hears about come from Mt. Washington. What a surprise!

**Roy: CERT and Neighborhood Watch** should work together. PD is not trained to help neighbors, only to cordon off areas and wait for the Fire Dept. This is changing. Officers will become **CERT** trained and will recognize **CERT** trained neighbors so a response can be coordinated in an emergency situation. Mt. Washington covers a large area and needs more than one **CERT** team.

**Linda:** Our Fire Station is on York and has seven on-duty firefighters including the Battalion Chief at any given time. Another unit from another area may be called in to respond if needed.

**Roy:** NE Division sends out only 8-10 cars a day to cover many areas. Hollywood, Elysian, and Raymond fault lines all come into our area. If there is a major disaster, responders will depend on us. Many of them live outside the area. We may be on our own for 72 hours or more, we need to take care of each other.

**CERT training is being offered starting on Thursday, Sept. 11 (7class series) at Highland Park Rec Center**  
6150 Piedmont Ave, LA, CA 90042  
6:30 -9:30 pm

**Learn First Aid, triage, stretcher procedures, & radio protocol.**  
**There are 50 slots available for this free training program. Sign up with Roy & check webpage for schedule:**

<http://mtwashingtonjessica.org/>

Another class series starts in January.

**A Drill is scheduled for Oct 18. Everyone needs to participate**, not just those who are **CERT** trained. You can be deputized on the spot. Victims are also needed.

**Ben:** Involvement was first motivated for pet rescue.

**Roy:** I responded after Katrina. We had to push dogs away, we could only rescue people. It was heart breaking. We need to make pets a part of the rescue effort. **Community Animal Rescue Team (CART)** is another training course option.

**Ben: Neighborhood Disaster Plan** can be found on website

<http://www.cert-la.com/>

**City of LA Emergency Management Dept.** hand -out is also available. Five-step plan is based on what Roy put together for Montecito Heights.

- 1. DEFINE YOUR AREA:** We are defined as Mt. Washington-Jessica.
- 2. RECRUIT LEADERS:** Need to break down block by block & select **CERT** trained **Block Captains**. More than one neighbor should be prepared to assume this responsibility for each block.
- 3. SCOUT YOUR AREA:** Know where to set up gathering areas within ¼ mile of home. Coptic Church may be used as a command center, helicopter landing site, shelter, & triage center. Cleland Park can also be used as place to set up tents and triage.

- 4. BUILD YOUR TEAM:** A **Survey Form** has been created so Captains will know who lives in the area, who may need help, and what resources are available. Who has a chain saw? Who lives in each house? Children, pets, elderly or people with special needs? Languages spoken, medications required, & out of state contact **information will be kept confidential. Data from Survey will be keyed and color-coded to an area map. Block Captains should commit information to memory or have notebook handy with information, as computers may not be accessible in an emergency.**

**Supplemental Training for T1 CERT team: can have access to information for people with medical needs.**

- 5. PLAN YOUR APPROACH:** Create a plan so everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency:

**Gathering Areas** in the immediate area have been identified and neighbors have been informed of these locations ahead of any event .

**A CERT trained Incident Commander proceeds to Command Center at Church** to coordinate and dispatch help from inside & outside the area. This person should be pre-identified, but everyone should prepare to improvise. **The IC is the only person talking to EMD based on Block Captain Reports.**

**Block Captains from each block survey the area as they walk to the Gathering Area.** Neighbors who are able and OK should proceed there, too. Everyone should have a radio and bring cell phones (though service may be over-loaded in a disaster). Everyone should have red and green door hangers provided by the City of LA that can be displayed to help neighbors quickly identify where help is needed.

**At the Gathering Places, each Block Captain contacts the Command Center by radio.** The Command Center can see what help is needed where and can coordinate and dispatch resources.

**People who are hurt can hopefully be moved to the Coptic Church or Park for triage.** By surveying each block and gathering information, life-saving help can be addressed immediately by neighbors and then directed more effectively when responders eventually arrive.

**Roy: Radios are very important for communication during an emergency.**

GMRS is a fee, FRS is free and recommended. Radio Shack has inexpensive radios, or you can get better ones for about \$100. During a disaster, use what you have.

**Mt. Washington should develop its own channel. Pick a channel for the Community and two tactical channels. Select one channel for the Drill on 10/18.**

**Fernando:** Who is a Hammy?

**Jutti:** Identifies herself as a **Ham Radio Operator**. The key to radio protocol is to listen more than you talk. G-d gave us two ears and one mouth. Remember, that if you are pressing the button down and talking, no one else can talk. She will be a good resource for radio protocol and can set up Ham Radio in Church during the Drill. **Suggests keeping out of area contacts in your wallet so Ham Radio Operator can contact relatives.** During Boston Marathon, cell lines were overloaded. **There is a six week class in Tijunga for radio tech license for \$30. Easy and you actually learn something!**

**Alan:** What triggers this response team? I've lived here for 40 years. How big a disaster triggers a group response?

**Roy:** The incident will dictate the response. We don't know until it happens. Be prepared! Turn on the Radio if there is a disaster or an impending disaster. A few years ago we had a big wind storm. We turned on our radios and within an hour there were reports of wires down in Montecito Heights. Wires could start a fire or hurt someone. A group of us put up tape and barricades to keep people away. Our team was deployed for three days before the Utility Co arrived.

**Lesson learned:** If you have a Radio, have charged batteries on hand. Power was out for three days during the wind storm.

Also, a while back we spotted a fire on Mt. Washington from Montecito Heights. We called the FD and we were able to help direct them up the hill. Gopher holes triggered a mudslide in Laguna Miguel. Who expected UCLA to get flooded?

**Fernando:** Water tanks above Mt. Washington Elementary were drained by half a tank during wind storm.

**Roy: It's a dog eat dog world, we have to come together and start preparing now. Stores will have a run on plywood, batteries, etc. Have fund raisers to buy supplies, gather inexpensive crutches and braces from Goodwill.**

**Roy: Asks group to come up with 20 scenarios for the 10/18 Drill.** Five for fire, others for stroke, heart attack, auto accident, tree limb down, pregnant woman hit by debris, person in wheel chair knocked over, lacerations on body and loss of limbs, etc. **Victim volunteers can use make-up to make it look real.**

**Offers quick triage advice:**

If you see a neighbor who is unresponsive, squeeze pink middle finger. Should be back to pink in two seconds. Then ask person to pick up arms, if he can only lift one, or offer half a smile, relay to EMT that you suspect a stroke has occurred.

**Every delay risks a life!**

**Nancy: Asks Sylvia to help secure Cleland Park for the Drill. Suggests that we:**

**1. Organize into teams and asks everyone to sign-up for:**

- CERT
- CART
- Leadership Role for Drill
- Victim for Drill

**2. Go to Website for information on CERT training and Disaster Drill .**

<http://mtwashingtonjessica.org/>

**3. Fill out Surveys with attached Preparedness lists, tell your neighbors.**

Contact Ben or Nancy to collect forms. They need to have completed by mid-September so that information can be coded to maps in time for the Mt. Washington Drill.

**Mt. Washington Disaster Drill is scheduled on Saturday, Oct 18 between 10am and 2pm.** Neighbors will role play as Block Captains, Neighbor responders, and Victims utilizing Cleland Park and the Coptic Church as community resources for command posts, shelter and triage. In case of a disaster, we may be on our own for the first few days, so help us be prepared!

**8:30pm :** Nancy thanks everyone for coming, and Sylvia, Roy, and Ben for sharing and helping to put this all together! Meeting adjourned. Refreshments served.