

ELEC Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2022

The meeting was held in the Community Room. Larry Rosenblum, Bob Garsha, Forrest Gist and Brian Case were present.

The meeting was exclusively an interview with Brian Case on his views on how to prepare for an extended emergency, building infrastructure and operation and what to expect from governmental emergency services.

Two key points Brian made were:

1. Focus on core needs: food & water, security, sanitation and medical.
2. There will come a point perhaps as soon as 3 days when everyone needs to decide to abandon their “cave” and head to a point outside the disaster area even if that means on foot. We pointed out that even if this is correct, ELEC’s task is to provide direction of day-to-day operations for as long as residents remain in the building.

Below is a summary of Brian’s comments and suggestions.

Discussion with Brian, 11/03/22

Brian Suggestions – get perspectives and recommendations from multiple sources; insurance, fire, police, etc.

Preparation – food supplies, water supplies, sanitation. There will be a limit to the number of resources available. Goal is to evacuate from disaster zone. Escape plan. Try to leave within 3 days. If cannot leave in 3 days, then determine what your plan will be. Get FEMA and/or GIS maps (seismic zones, flood maps, fire maps) to determine where to go. Have an end-game plan (e.g. Go by foot to Wilsonville for example.). Have Plan A, B, C so if one plan does not work, another plan can be deployed.

Protection – when a disaster occurs, what methods to protect and secure property when onsite and in transit. Look at integrating with local resources. (Closest beacon unit is Fields Park.) In an earthquake, minimal cell tower coverage. In a flood some outages will occur. Brian recommends using ham radio as a resource. Satellite phones are an option. Have an out of state reciprocal plan to stay with someone.

Sanitation – Very important and needs to be paid attention. Need to focus on storage, sanitation, etc.

Team Organization – Need to consider the size of teams so each team has an appropriate number of participants. Consider permitted and unpermitted activities. Consider how to handle the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’.

Medical – Need a high percentage of people trained in CPR.

Pets – what to do about pets over time, or feral animals.

- Other Thoughts from Brian:
- In a high-rise just assume the ground floor is uninhabitable – it may be that it is.
- Think of it as if turning the Elizabeth Lofts into a castle.
- Everyone plans for success but don't plan for systems failing. When do I evacuate, where do I go, etc.

Questions to Brian / Topics for Discussion:

1. Doors unlock when power fails. On generator backup, so this may take a while.
2. Plan is to exit via 9th street stairwell, and trash room door.
3. Possibly chain front main doors closed. Maybe add plywood over doors.
4. Garage doors – mag locks unlock during power loss, so the garage doors would need to be chained locked or something. May need to develop a solution (drill a hole for a rod through the gates)
5. Flanders – gas connection to building. NW Nat Gas has the upstream key. The building should have a downstream key. (Off valve). Designed to be able to be turned off in an emergency. Special wrench used.
6. Key to Generator Room is concierge common skeleton key. Two modes; run and auto. (plus off).
7. Live power cables; consider purchasing a live wire detector unit. Some real good ones. Consider turning power off.
8. All emergency power breakers have an 'E' by them. There are electrical rooms located on each floor.
9. Need to valve off water. (Relying on Bob Steele to spearhead how to turn off water).
10. Trying to find out when water utility, remember pipes get bigger as they go towards source.
11. Pee and Poop – pee should be straightforward. Poop maybe add quick lime or similar to it. Be aware of accidents and disease vectors with poop.
12. CMI Team – 4 folks working with Brian on his team, covering 14 buildings.
13. Priority: Fire, ambulance, fuel trucks.
14. Generator: starts automatically upon power loss. Some emergency lights are backed up via battery.
15. Advice on patrolling building (from external threats) (and to aid or monitor those who remain.) Have a list of remaining residents. Split sheets up logically. Conduct roll call. Find out how they can help. Try not to have volunteers all over the place – try to find a way to centralize resources.
16. Need to fit into the emergency action plan. Need to make sure to have a strategy to implement Elizabeth lofts action plan in coordination with the overall City Emergency Action Plan
17. Current plan is if leaving the building, we camp in the north park blocks. Suggest all people get some basic camp gear – suggest multi-person tents (easier to keep warm and also can store other items).
18. Army manuals have some good information – they are available online. Army Field Manual – 21-76.
19. Iodine – good for sterilization, water purification, etc. Good to keep at hand. Safer than bleach.

20. Clean water – good to focus on. Don't use cooling towers or loops. Water inside boilers, water supply pipes, etc. Always treat – consider as unpure. (Larry notes that 200+ aqua bricks were sold to the Elizabeth).
21. Bob - need to consider where these things will be stored.
22. Brian – consider that medical supplies expire. Band aides expire after 5 years or so. Keep note of expiration dates.
23. Bob – what about garage monitors? Brian – avoid trying to play government. Let people do what they feel is best for their safety (like they can leave). Need to be flexible, but remember there are a core set of competencies that are essential; keeping dry, warm, clean water, sanitation.
24. Medications – these are Achilles heel – each person needs to ensure they have the right medication that they need.
25. CPR Course – Red Cross offers these. CPR needs are relatively rare during a disaster. Typically, more likely lacerations, broken bones, injuries, etc.
26. ELEC provides information, but does not provide recommendations; that is left up to the individual to decide what to follow.
27. Brian – pee and poop; do a dumpster, add lime or chemicals, add soil on top, layer it. At some point there is a cut off point. Plan B might be once dumpster is full, then get another dumpster or consider another option.
28. Have progressive levels of a plan; for example – where would you go in the event of an emergency?
29. Ham radio links are really handy because you can ask others how things are in other locations.
30. If within a week, things are not getting better, then gather camping gear and get out.
31. When spring cleaning, remember where things are located, so if a disaster occurs you know where those items are located. (wills, important docs, etc.)
32. Brian tests his capacity for not requiring power for a couple of days. (Found out his ethernet router lost power, for example).
33. Bob – what about a more serious disease outbreak? Brian – will depend on air handling filtration, etc. as well as social distancing.