



Larry Masterman, CEM, NHDP

This week, I'd like to introduce a valuable partner in our effort to increase disaster resilience within our diocese.

Larry Masterman and I became friends in the late 1970s when we met in Mt. Shasta building model airplanes together. Since then, Larry (who grew up in the Episcopal Church) has gone on to do some amazing things with his life, and is a perfect fit as a resource to help all of us be better ready to face disasters that come our way.

As a 17-year old, Larry became interested in emergency services in 1974, working as a search and rescue volunteer during five days of regional flooding in Central Washington. He has served in emergency services continually since 1978.

He served as a San Francisco paramedic and watch commander for 12 years, running some 12,000 calls. As watch commander, Larry was responsible for managing the emergency medical response for all complex incidents. In his last month on the job there, he responded to a high-rise fire and managed the City's medical response to the Loma Prieta earthquake.

After managing a rural paramedic service for 4 years, Larry joined an 11-county regional EMS agency, ultimately becoming Regional Disaster Medical and Health Specialist, coordinating field EMS, hospital, and public health emergency medical preparedness and response to disasters. This position took on new importance after the 2001 9/11 attacks and the anthrax attacks of the following month.

From 2008 to 2017 Larry headed up emergency management for Trinity County, California and the City of Medford, Oregon. In 2017 he was recruited by the California Governor's Office

of Emergency Services to serve as a deputy branch director for recovery from historically destructive wildfires in California's wine country.

Since 2018 Larry has been dedicated full time to managing a small consulting and training company, where his team specializes in emergency preparedness, complex incident management, and disaster medical services.

He has studied and taught complex emergency management across the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Larry lives in Weaverville, California with Paula, his bride of 44 years. They have evacuated their home for threatening wildfires five times since 2001, and encountered other disasters up-close and personal, including the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, extreme weather, flooding, and other calamities.

His professional and personal experience with disasters has inspired Larry to embrace the lessons of personal, family, and community preparedness many times over.

Please join me in welcoming Larry, and look for future articles in which he shares his knowledge, wisdom, and a few stories.