



## **Building a 'Whole Community' Framework for Disaster Response**

Presented by: **Jared Moravec, Fire Chief, Bainbridge Island Fire Department; Scott James, Founder, Bainbridge Prepares; Author, Prepared Neighborhoods; Anne LeSage, City of Bainbridge Island Emergency Management Coordinator**

**Presentation Abstract:** In a disaster, all communities can become an island; Bainbridge Island just happens to be one all the time. In 2016, the Bainbridge Island City Council set forth a resolution to join a five-year preparedness effort created by a citizen group and the local fire district to have our island community become a recognized leader in preparedness in Washington State. To make this resolution a reality, a unique three-way partnership was formed between the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department, and the community non-profit Bainbridge Prepares.

With a focus on building a culture of preparedness, volunteer capacity, and community resilience, each organization is responsible for several preparedness and response initiatives and collectively partners on program development and strategic planning.

In a town where city and fire department full time staff is around 170 people, over 700 volunteers act as a force multiplier in preparedness and response efforts. Community engagement focuses on training, implementation of Map Your Neighborhood and FireWise, building food

resilience, serving access and functional needs, preparing local organizations, and creating a Disaster Hub shelter system.

Coordination for response teams surrounding the Disaster Hubs occurs across the spectrum and includes: CERT, Wilderness First Responders, Medical Reserve Corps, Flotilla, Communication Infrastructure, Child Safety and Family Reunification, Damage Assessment, Wellness, and Psychological First Aid teams.

**Speaker Bios:** Jared Moravec is the Fire Chief for the Bainbridge Island, Washington Fire Department. Jared is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department which consists of three fire stations, over 40 uniformed personnel, and 15 volunteers.

Jared has been in the fire service for 30 years, working both as a volunteer and paid member in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Washington. He has served in the Planning Section on Type 2 and Type 3 incident management teams in Washington State and is a past president of the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals.

Jared has a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Protection Engineering Technology and a Master's Degree in Fire and Emergency Management Administration, both from Oklahoma State University. He also completed the executive fire officer program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Scott James is the founder and board chair of Bainbridge Prepares: a community non-profit focused on enhancing individual and community preparedness. *BusinessWeek* named Scott James as one of America's most promising social entrepreneurs and *Forbes Magazine* profiled him as a game changer.

The products from his companies have been featured in publications as diverse as Oprah's *O Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Parents Magazine*, *the Washington Post*, *Outside Magazine*, and *US News & World Report*. His film projects range from the opening shorts at the United Nations Climate Change Summits (Producer Lyn Lear and Director Louie Schwartzberg) to the breakthrough nature-based series on Netflix (title series: "*Moving Art*").

Scott was awarded a Governor's Award of Excellence in Service by the state of Washington for his nonprofit community preparedness work. In 2018, Scott was asked by FEMA to present his book – *Prepared Neighborhoods: Creating Resilience One Street at a Time* – at their national training symposium. Bainbridge Prepares was awarded the IAEM-USA Voluntary Organization of the Year for 2022 for their COVID-19 response.

Anne LeSage is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Bainbridge Island. Anne is responsible for leading the City's comprehensive emergency management program. Anne is a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers and a recent graduate of the FEMA National Emergency Management Advance Academy.

Previously, Anne served as the Emergency Management Director at the University of California, Irvine. Prior to working for UCI, Anne worked in Public Health Preparedness, holding positions in both Dallas County Health and Human Services and the Washington State Department of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.

Anne has a Master's Degree in Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University, a Master's Degree in Public Health from University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and a Bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from California State University, Northridge.