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Becoming a catastrophe analyst was not my lifelong ambition. My closest brush with an actual catastrophe came in 1991 when Hurricane Bob made its way to New England.

We did not live on the coast, but we did buy extra food and water and hunkered down nonetheless. I mainly recall being upset that I could not play outside with the other children as the eye of the storm was passing through.

My one and only hurricane experience did not spark a particular passion for chasing natural disasters.

I graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. I left school without a clear sense of what I wanted to do next.

I posted my resume online and received a request for an interview the following day for a temporary position as a catastrophe analyst.



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The job title alone was interesting and working for a well-known company like Markel was a bonus.

I quickly learned that catastrophe management is extremely important for Markel and the industry. Our time horizon is long-term, and our underwriting approach is disciplined.

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In my 10 years with Markel, I have worked with more product teams than most associates do in an entire career.

Multiple acquisitions, additional reporting requirements, new and improved catastrophe models, and the scientific and technological advances that drive them have all evolved at a rapid rate. This has kept my role interesting as well as challenging.