

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS



Submitted by:



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ABOUT US

Brydges Engineering in Environment and Energy (BE3corp) offers significant experience and expertise across a wide spectrum of industrial, commercial and community health, and emergency preparedness, planning and response. Over the past several years, the United States has been challenged by several natural and man-made events including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, anthrax attacks, the catastrophic hurricanes in the Gulf and East Coasts, flooding in the Midwestern States in 2008, the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, tornadoes and floods in the spring of 2011, Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and now the covid-19 pandemic.

It is evident from the seemingly delayed responses or overwhelmed resources that emergency management and public health preparedness requires more support. BE3 can provide specific services to assist organizations with robust protocols and processes that enable continued operations for the business, thus mitigating unnecessary costs and lost revenue. BE3's expertise includes a multidisciplinary team of professionals with comprehensive training and experience in public health and emergency planning and preparedness.

Peter J. Gorton, MPH, CHCM. Mr. Gorton has a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) from Yale School of Medicine and is a Certified Hazard Control Manager, Master's Level. He completed numerous courses in epidemiology, infectious and communicable diseases, water and wastewater quality and food safety. Mr. Gorton's master's thesis was in microbiological standards for foods and food safety. He has over 40 years of providing both emergency response, health and safety, monitoring, planning and preparedness consulting to government agencies and the private sector across a broad spectrum of environmental and public health and safety applications. Mr. Gorton is a partner at BE3 and has developed thousands of health and safety plans and training exercises. Recently, Mr. Gorton has worked on several bio-remedial remediation efforts and he has been involved with multiple emergency responses to chemical and petroleum spills. He has developed and completed numerous community air monitoring programs. His expertise and experience include chemical, petroleum, radiological and biological public health and environmental concerns in air, water, soil and foods.

Jason M. Brydges, P.E. Mr. Brydges is a licensed professional environmental engineer with a BS in engineering from University of Florida, an MS in engineering from Clemson University, and an MBA at the University of Buffalo. He has approximately 25 years of experience in the government and private sectors in various disciplines including hazardous and radioactive waste management, health physics applications, radiation and contamination controls, waste containment and biological treatment, site assessment, remedial design, soils remediation, decontamination and decommissioning operations, facility closure, environmental quality review, stormwater design and wetland management, asbestos design, and federal emergency management operations. Mr. Brydges knowledge in programmatic guidance is extensive including FUSRAP, NYSBCP, RCRA, SEQRA, NEPA, CERCLA, NESHAPs, and FEMA. Specific FEMA training includes Logistics, Incident Command System, Deployment for FEMA Response Partners, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action, Incidents, Coordinating Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance, Mission Assignment, Hazard Mitigation, Local Damage Assessment, Debris Operations, Public Assistance Program, National Incident Management System, National Response Framework, and Emergency Support Function (ESF #5) – Emergency Management.



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Gary D. Robinson, PhD. Serving as a long-time consultant to BE3, Dr. Robinson has a PhD and MBA in finance and a BS and MS in water quality. He has over 40 years of diverse professional experience, including in-depth experience in emergency and disaster management, environmental and construction management, and hazardous management, preparedness and response. Dr. Robinson has firsthand experience with grant applications and government contracting requirements in emergency response and preparedness, as well as training and public meeting presentations. His multidiscipline educational background and experience provides him a rare ability to consult in both the technical scientific and financial arenas. Dr. Robinson's most recent experience involves providing emergency/energy management consulting services to the various towns. He served as Emergency Manager during 3 Federal Declared Disasters and serves as on the Emergency Managers Directors Association, as well as Chairman of the Regional Emergency Planning Committee. He is currently working on community response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has provided plans and consultation for Shelter in Place Corporation (SIPCO): provide consulting services related to the development of Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning, Plans and All Hazards plans for Municipal and Medical Facilities and Community Emergency Management plans (CEMP). Dr. Robinson is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers and has multiple certifications and advanced training in Disaster Preparedness from the American Board of Certification in Homeland Security; Certification in Terrorism Prevention for Fire Professionals; Continuity of Operations (COOP) Excellence Series Level 1, Professional Continuity Practitioner; Federal and State Emergency Management and planning; Certified – First Responder Trainer; Special Events Contingency Planning for Public Safety and many others. Dr. Robinson is also an assistant fire chief.

Ralph E. Estep, PhD, RN, CIH, CSP.

Dr. Estep is a Certified Industrial Hygienist with a PhD in Safety Science, an MS in occupational health and safety and a BS in chemistry. He is also a registered nurse. He has over 25 years providing services nationally to clients in the healthcare, manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries. Dr. Estep develops and implements various public and occupational safety and health programs including: hazard communication, industrial hygiene monitoring, respiratory protection, asbestos management and abatement activities, lead management and abatement activities, chemical process safety, hazardous waste operations, biosafety, radiation safety, laser safety, laboratory chemical hygiene, indoor air quality, ergonomics, fire protection, life safety code, OSHA record keeping and emergency management. He has provided human factors and safety engineering services for the development of system safety and human factors programs and provides consultant services for various health clinics and hospitals. He has been responsible for Emergency Management and Safety implementation of Ebola Risk Assessments for healthcare workers, developed Ebola TTT course for donning and doffing PPE for healthcare workers, was a member of the COVID 19 Emergency Management and Safety Incident Command team for operationalizing the first NY State COVID 19 Treatment Center and completed Biological risk assessments specializing in legionella sampling and hazard control methods. Dr. Estep is Principal, Health Systems Safety, Inc. and a long time consultant to BE3.

BE3 Experience in Emergency Management and Public Health Preparedness: BE3 provides a series of services directed at both private and public clients to plan adequately for both natural and man-made disasters. These services will allow for the required coordination with federal, state, tribal, regional, and local emergency preparedness systems. These services are designed to assist companies and agencies to adequately prepare to meet the needs of employees, management staff, residents, and clients during disasters and emergency situations. Despite the unique requirements for specific clients that will be emphasized, the services provide will be consistent with emergency preparedness, response and countermeasures requirements and will establish a coordinated and defined response to natural and man-made disasters or public health emergencies. While each approach will be unique to the needs of the client, they will include standard procedures and policies that are proven and that will dovetail into federal, state and local responses.

BE3 reviews and prepares existing public health and emergency preparedness plans and procedures for large, medium and small municipalities, government agencies and public entities as well as corporations of all sizes. Some entities possess detailed and comprehensive emergency preparedness plans and procedures; however, others have little or no planning, training and operational readiness. Oftentimes the support services within these organizations are insufficient, inconsistent, and inadequate to address the complexities of real-time emergencies that can affect the organization.



Services Offered and Potential Requirements:

- **Plans, Policies, and Procedures:** Development and implementation of key policies and procedures that support the successful execution of the emergency plan and risks identified during the risk assessment process. Specific plans include Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) and Corporate or Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). A COOP plan is designed to ensure that essential functions continue to be performed during a wide range of disaster emergencies or public health crises. The goal of the plan is to ensure the continuation of essential functions. The objective of the planning is to identify the essential functions of the specific organization and ensure that those functions can be continued throughout, or resumed rapidly after, a disruption of normal activities. CEMPs go hand in hand with COOPs and specify the purpose, organization, responsibilities, and facilities of local, state or federal municipal agencies and officials of the political subdivision in the mitigation of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters.
- **Training and Testing:** Development and maintenance of an organization-specific emergency preparedness and public health training and testing program, including initial and ongoing training in emergencies and organizational-specific preparedness. Training is provided for all personnel levels within an organization in public health awareness, disaster and emergency management, and in individual COOP and CEMP plans. Training is specific and comprehensive.
- **Response Activities:** Provision of staff with varied technical backgrounds and experience to accommodate client needs. The plans that are created identify key response functions and personnel needed for response actions, and this can be developed in consultation with management. If appropriate, BE3 will function as an emergency responder for specific aspects of a client emergency.
- **Risk Assessment and Emergency Planning:** Completion of a risk assessment that uses an “all-hazards” approach prior to establishing an emergency plan. The all-hazards risk assessment will be used to identify the essential components to be integrated into the facility emergency plan. An all-hazards approach is an integrated approach to emergency preparedness planning that focuses on capacities and capabilities that are critical to preparedness for a full spectrum of emergencies or disasters. This will be specific to the organization and considers the types of hazards most likely to occur in their entity. These may include, health care emergencies; equipment and power failures; interruptions in communications, including cyber-attacks; loss of a portion or all a facility; and, interruptions in the normal supply of essentials, such as water and food.
- **Communication Planning:** Development and maintenance of an emergency preparedness communication plan. The plan must be well-coordinated within the organization and with state and local public health departments and emergency management agencies and systems to protect health and safety.

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