As discussed throughout the course, emergency management and planning is a critical aspect in any society since it helps enhance disaster preparedness, improves response mechanisms, and helps mitigate the effects of a disaster. In any disaster management program, a manager is appointed or chosen to steer various activities in relation to emergency management and response. Such an EMPM is thereby supposed to possess certain competencies and skills that allow them to be effective when dispensing their roles in emergency management. Choosing the three most important competencies is not an easy task since such a manager is supposed to possess more than three competencies. The three most important competencies that I identified that an EMPM should possess include communication and cooperation, critical thinking and decision-making, and time management and organization.

Communication and cooperation in the wake of a disaster or an emergency are critical competencies that an emergency management program manager must possess. Communication ensures that the manager notifies all people who have been affected and response teams that are supposed to help in the evacuation of people. Possessing key communication skills such as interpersonal and verbal communication skills to allow the manager to relay concise information to all teams that are involved in emergency management (Barberaet al. 2007). Effective communication is also an important competency because it allows the manager to effectively coordinate the activities of emergency personnel and members of the public who have been affected by an emergency. Without effective communication skills, a manager may not be well-placed to provide enhanced cooperation among all the members of the emergency teams. Effective communication also helps reduce any chances of miscommunication and confusion that may arise when mitigating the effects of a disaster.

The second most important competency that should be possessed by an emergency management program manager is critical thinking and decision-making skills. The competency is important since many of the decisions that are made in emergency management are often hasty. Managers have very little time to make decisions. If a wrong decision is made, serious repercussions could befall the people who have been affected by the disaster (Barbera et al. 2007). With this in mind, critical and creative skills come in handy in allowing the manager to make the best decisions that protect the interests of all the people at the community level. The competency is also important because of the changing circumstances in the wake of a disaster. Changing circumstances require decisions to be made quickly with the aim of alleviating human suffering in the community that has been affected by the disaster.

The third most important competency that I identified for an emergency management program manager is time management and organization. Every time, an emergency management manager is supposed to juggle numerous tasks that require their full attention. With this in mind, one must always possess the ability to manage their time and prioritize various activities that need to be undertaken. Such prioritization is aimed at offering attention to the issues that are of higher importance. The skill ensures that critical issues in emergency management are addressed as and when they arise. Organization skills are also important, especially during the response and recovery phases after a disaster has struck. A manager who possesses the competency is well-placed to ensure that there is no duplication of tasks as this would amount to great confusion among the response or emergency teams at the community level.   
 

Reference

Barbera, J. A., Macintyre, A. G., Shaw, G., Seefried, V., Westerman, L., & de Cosmo, S. (2007). Healthcare emergency management competencies: Competency framework final report. The George Washington University: Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management