

Dr. Steven M. Becker

Dr. Steven M. Becker is Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. He is an internationally recognized expert on the public health, risk communication, and preparedness and response issues associated with large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Dr. Becker has nearly two decades of experience dealing with environmental contamination incidents, major accidents, mass casualty incidents, terrorism, and new and emerging health threats. This includes both published scholarly research and extensive fieldwork at disaster sites around the world. His on-the-ground experience includes such cases as a major drinking water contamination incident in Great Britain, the 1999 nuclear criticality accident in Tokaimura, Japan, and the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom. He has also done follow-up work in Ukraine and Belarus on the continuing impacts of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Most recently, he was part of a three-person Radiological Emergency Assistance Team that was invited to Japan in response to the March 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster and the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Dr. Becker served as a principal investigator in the Pre-Event Message Development Project, a groundbreaking study aimed at improving emergency messages for biological, radiological, nuclear and chemical incidents. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this multiyear, multisite effort identified key concerns and information needs for the general public (including vulnerable populations) and emergency responders. In follow-up studies, Dr. Becker has also examined the concerns, information requirements and training needs of hospital emergency department physicians and nurses and the public health workforce. More recently, Dr. Becker has served as principal investigator for a multi-year Department of Homeland Security funded study of the communication and information challenges associated with radiological threats and incidents.

Dr. Becker's research on disasters, accidents, emergencies, terrorism and related topics has appeared in a wide range of scholarly books and journals including *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* (American Medical Association), *Health Physics*, the *British Medical Journal*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Military Medicine*, *Safety Science*, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, *Emergency Medicine Practice*, the *Journal of Applied Security Research*, *Prehospital & Disaster Medicine*, and *Bioterrorism & Biosecurity*. In recent years he has served as a subject matter expert for a variety of agencies and organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the National Academy of Sciences and others. For the past decade, he has also been an invited faculty member for Harvard School of Public Health's highly-rated course on Radiological Emergency Planning: Terrorism, Security, and Communication. In 2005, Dr. Becker was elected by his scientific peers to the Congressionally-chartered National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), where he serves as a member of the Advisory Panel on Public Policy. In 2010, he was named a G. William Morgan Lecturer by the Health Physics Society of the United States.