

Preface

A high priority for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the preparation of emergency responders and decision makers for conducting rapid, efficient countermeasures to an act of radiological or nuclear terrorism. Several publications by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) have provided guidance on effective responses to terrorism incidents, including Report No. 138 (2001), *Management of Terrorist Events Involving Radioactive Material*; Commentary No. 19 (2005), *Key Elements of Preparing Emergency Responders for Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism*; Report No. 161 (2008), *Management of Persons Contaminated with Radionuclides*; and the proceedings of the 2004 NCRP Annual Meeting on *Advances in Consequence Management for Radiological Terrorism Events* published in *Health Physics* in 2005.

This Report on *Responding to a Radiological or Nuclear Terrorism Incident: A Guide for Decision Makers* provides a comprehensive analysis of key decision points and information needed by decision makers at the local, regional, state, tribal and federal levels in responding to radiological or nuclear terrorism incidents. It provides a framework for preparedness efforts by describing in depth the information that should be acquired and communicated as a basis for the decision-making process. This Report is written with consideration of basic information that may be useful to planners developing local and regional response plans that in turn should be used to support training and exercise programs to prepare for acts of radiological or nuclear terrorism. The Report provides valuable supplementary information in support of the U.S. National Response Framework, the National Incident Management System, and other federal and state guidance that has been issued in recent years.

This Report was prepared by Scientific Committee 2-2 on Preparedness for Responding to the Aftermath of Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism: A Guide for Decision Makers. Serving on Scientific Committee 2-2 were:

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