Ideas for researchable topics:

- Social and political amplification of risk. What are the causes of the risks faced from the activities under review? What are the feedbacks (from individual and group perception of risk and communication of the information related to the risks) throughout the "amplification" system from identification of a problem to evaluation of alternatives and changes in the dynamics of the system over time?
- Risk management strategies in response to intentional acts of a strategic adversary. How can game theory and strategic behavior analysis shed light on the differences between management strategies for risks from physical and technological events (i.e. benign sources) and purposeful acts of humans (i.e. terrorism)?
- The nature of "extreme" events. Is there a continuum or discrete groupings? Does scale matter?
- "Reversibility" of direct and indirect consequences of extreme events. How can we understand the notion of "harm" and "catastrophe" based on different perceptions and modeling of "reversibility", "substitution", and "adaptation" over time?
- Responses to extreme events. Carefully evaluate short-term and long-term impacts and responses to consequences of extreme events over a long time period, such as that following from the destruction of the Trade Towers in New York. Individual and collective responses to the events and perception of risks change over time as experience builds. How is risk shifted and transferred as new polices are initiated?
- Reasonableness and effectiveness of responses to the terrorist acts of September 11th. Evaluate the ceremonial and ritualistic responses that may seem necessary but do not achieve any reduction in actual risk. How are these responses related to more "effective" responses? How do they relate to the fear and safety concerns of individuals and public/private entities?
- Terrorist extreme events. What exactly challenges our understanding of risk management and reduction? Is there a taxonomy of collective and individual responses over time? Is the risk associated with population density, as an urban problem?
- Compare the results of the studies listed above to dramatic earthquake in Kobe, Japan and unpredictability of climate change.

Outcomes:

- Non-traditional sources of data and more highly interdisciplinary ways of conducting focussed research.
- Closer relationships between private sector and academic research.

Funding sources:
Red Cross
Homeland security program
New York foundations