



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

# Highlight

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

## Portable Radiation Portal Monitors

Portal monitors are detection systems used to monitor individuals, vehicles, and cargo for radioactive contamination. Some radiological emergencies pose a risk of particulate materials inhalation that warrant evacuation from the area. Individuals affected by this type of emergency may be contaminated with particulate radioactive material on their clothing or skin. Cargo and vehicles in the area may have accumulated radioactive surface contamination. Individuals, cargo, and vehicles would need to be monitored for radioactive contamination to prevent contamination transfer to clean areas.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) conducted a comparative assessment of portable radiation portal monitors for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, NSTec conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Portable Radiation Portal Monitors Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Portable Radiation Portal Monitors Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Portable Radiation Portal Monitors Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**Portable Radiation Portal Monitor**