



**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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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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## Aerial Radiation Detection Systems

Aerial radiation detection systems are mounted on aircraft in order to survey large areas for radiation. These systems consist of multiple components with one or more detector modules, a control unit, a data acquisition system, a global positioning system sensor, and an altitude sensor. The systems can be mounted internally or externally on aircraft.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Systems Engineering and Evaluation Directorate in collaboration with the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, tested commercial off-the-shelf aerial radiation detection systems to characterize the technical and operational performance and suitability of these systems. As a System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program Technical Agent, the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), participated in these tests, designated the Gryphon Test Campaign, by conducting a comparative assessment of the operational suitability of the aerial radiation detection systems.

The results of the assessment will be published in the *Aerial Radiation Detection Systems (ARDS) Assessment Report*, which will be located in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>) when it is available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



**Aerial Radiation Detection System**