



**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>

## Electric Personal Dosimeters

Electronic personal dosimeters are compact devices that provide immediate feedback to an emergency responder and potentially their command post on the kind of radiation exposure, as well as the dose received, during an operational period in order to monitor and control radiation exposure. Should an emergency responder enter a high-level radiation area or spend too much time in a low-level radiation area, the electronic personal dosimeter will alert them to the dose rate they receive with an alarm, vibration, or both. These devices are designed to be clipped to response gear, a belt, or other garment.

To assist emergency responders in making procurement decisions, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate established the SAVER Program. As a SAVER Technical Agent, the National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), has conducted a comparative assessment of electronic personal dosimeters for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, NSTec conducted a focus group to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Electronic Personal Dosimeters Focus Group Recommendations*.

All reports, including the *Electronic Personal Dosimeters Assessment Report*, will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**Electronic Personal Dosimeter**