



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 (S&T) Directorate 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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<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

High-Sensitivity Detectors

High-sensitivity detectors are portable devices that use high-resolution gamma spectroscopy to provide users with the identity of radionuclides. These devices provide more resolved spectra by using high purity germanium over other materials, such as sodium iodide. This equipment may be used in a variety of scenarios; for example, an emergency responder may locate radioactive materials with a radiation detection backpack, then use a high-sensitivity detector to determine the exact identity of a radionuclide.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) has conducted a comparative assessment of high-sensitivity detectors 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 *High-Sensitivity Detectors Focus Group Report*.

All reports in the series, including the *High-Sensitivity Detectors Assessment Report*, will be located in the SAVER section of the RKB website (<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 website.



High-Sensitivity Detector Assessment