



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office  
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: [saver@dhs.gov](mailto:saver@dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

## Neutron Detection Instruments

Neutron detectors are instruments used to identify and measure radioactive sources within a specified area. These detectors are sometimes incorporated in hand held radioactive isotope identifiers (RIIDs) that can be carried in emergency vehicles and used by emergency responders to make follow-up measurements after a radiation pager or portal monitor alarm. The ability of neutron detectors to screen for the presence of a neutron source depends on the detector sensitivity, and such factors as distance from the source, measurement time, and shielding.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right neutron detectors for their jurisdiction, the Environmental Measurements Laboratory has prepared a TechNote for the SAVER Program. The *Neutron Detection Instruments TechNote* details the technologies and limitations of neutron detectors, as well as the different types of commercial neutron detectors currently available.

The *Neutron Detection Instruments TechNote* is available on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.