Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) selection is a constantly evolving process that evaluates capabilities versus threats with the intention of identifying critical gaps and opportunities for improved protection or operational effectiveness. Objective measures of performance should be used to evaluate capabilities in order to maximize PPE suitability and effectiveness.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right PPE for their jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) prepared a selection guide for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The Personal Protective Equipment Selection Guide provides emergency responders with information on identification, selection, and validation of PPE in order to create a system of equipment to protect personnel against critical threats without hindering operational performance.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (https://www.rkb.us/saver) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

Cold Weather Personal Protective Equipment. FEMA News Photo.