



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

Radiation Detection Backpacks

Radiation detection backpacks are units designed for executing covert searches for gamma-emitting (and in some cases neutron-emitting) radioactive materials. The unit's detector and associated electronics are hidden inside a backpack, allowing the operator to inconspicuously search public areas. Emergency responders can use these backpacks to locate and secure radioactive materials that were placed in a public or private area.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) has conducted a comparative assessment of radiation detection backpacks for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, NSTec conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Radiation Detection Backpacks Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Radiation Detection Backpack Focus Group Recommendations*.

All reports in the series, including the *Radiation Detection Backpacks Assessment Report*, will be located in the SAVER section of the RKB 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.



Radiation Detection Backpack