



**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 unbiased operational tests 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, and 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-saving 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 the SAVER Web site: <https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Radiation Detectors—Identifiers

When a radiation alarm is triggered by a radiation pager, survey meter, or portal monitor, identification of the radioactive material becomes the priority. Distinguishing the source between a commercial radioactive source, naturally-occurring radioactive material, or potentially weaponized source is necessary when determining an appropriate response during an incident.

To make this distinction between different radioactive isotopes, it is necessary to perform a spectroscopic analysis using portable gamma spectroscopy systems/identifiers. The *Results of Test and Evaluation of Commercially Available Radionuclide Identifiers for the Department of Homeland Security Report* and the subsequent *Results of the Test and Evaluation of Commercially Available Radionuclide Identifiers for the Department of Homeland Security: Round 2 Testing Report* describe the outcome of testing by the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of commercially available radionuclide identifiers in accordance with *ANSI N42.34: Performance Criteria for Hand-Held Instruments for the Detection and Identification of Radionuclides*. The standard addresses instruments that can be used for homeland security applications to detect and identify radionuclides, for gamma dose rate measurement, and for indication of neutron radiation.

Following direction from DHS, the Nevada Test Site (NTS), operated by National Security Technologies (NST) has prepared a secondary market survey of equipment on Radiation Isotope Identifier Devices. *The Market Survey Report for Radiation Isotope Identifier Devices* identifies potential detectors that were developed after 2005.

The *Radiation Detector—Identifiers TechNote* provides basic information on the technology, how it works, and where more information can be found.

All reports are located on the SAVER program Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/saver>. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program may also be found on the Web site.