



**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; and
- 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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Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

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

Portable Radiological Equipment

Ionizing radiation comes from the decay of an unstable element and can transfer energy to the material through which it passes.

Although people cannot see, smell, or feel ionizing radiation, it can interact with human tissue and cause immediate or long-term health problems. Radiological instruments are designed to detect and measure radiation for a wide range of applications. Numerous portable radiological devices are available, including personal, self-reading, and electronic dosimeters; alarming personal radiation and emergency detectors; spectroscopic personal radiation detectors; handheld radiation survey meters; radionuclide isotope identifiers; and radiation detection backpacks.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right instrument for their jurisdiction, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared the *Portable Radiological Equipment Technical Guide* for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The guide explains fundamental concepts in radiation measurement to aid the user in equipment selection, and focuses on homeland security applications involving detection, assessment, personnel safety, and tactical response activities following a radiological incident.

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.



Portable Radiological Equipment