



# 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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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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## Standoff Radiation Detectors

Standoff radiation detectors are used to locate remote radioactive sources and determine if they constitute a threat. These systems usually contain gamma and neutron detectors, as both types of radiation are emitted from special nuclear material used in nuclear devices.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right standoff radiation detector for their jurisdiction, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Standoff Radiation Detectors TechNote* discusses performance considerations and available equipment. The *Standoff Radiation Detectors Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace. A focus group was also conducted to identify equipment selection criteria, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Standoff Radiation Detectors Focus Group Report*.

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.



Clockwise from top left photos courtesy of Thermo Scientific, Mirion Technologies Inc., and NuSAFE Inc.

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