Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
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 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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Personal Radiation Detectors Test Campaign

Personal Radiation Detectors (PRDs) are pocket-sized devices that can be worn by law enforcement and other public safety personnel to alert them to the presence of radioactive material. The primary issue associated with the use of PRDs is their performance in detecting radioactive sources in certain operationally relevant environments.

To improve the preparedness capabilities of public safety personnel, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) tasked its Assessments Directorate (ASD) to test commercial off-the-shelf PRDs in April 2006. The DNDO ASD conducted operationally relevant testing from July 17 through August 3, 2006 at the Nevada Test Site. Fifteen PRDs from eight manufacturers were evaluated in the test campaign using five scenarios: (1) Pedestrian Surveying; (2) Mobile Surveying; (3) Screening/Localization of radioactive sources in cargo; (4) Pedestrian Chokepoint monitoring; and (5) Personal Safety. The ten radioactive sources used in these tests include a wide spectrum of usage including industrial, medical, natural occurring radioactive material and threat-based radionuclides.

The complete *State and Local Summary Report Personal Radiation Detectors Test Campaign* includes detailed results, and is available by request on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/saver). Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.