



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: saver@dhs.gov

Visit the SAVER Web site: <https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Radiation Detectors—Survey Meters

Radiation survey meters are portable, hand-held radiation detectors that can be used by emergency responders: law enforcement, fire fighters, hazmat team members, and healthcare professionals, during interdiction or response to radiological incidents. Survey meters are physically larger and heavier than radiation pagers and are not intended to be worn by an individual.

DHS, through its Science and Technology Directorate, has adopted a series of standards for radiation and nuclear detection equipment. These standards were developed in partnership with DHS; the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Laboratories; the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Each standard describes and establishes design and performance criteria along with testing methods for various radiation and nuclear detection equipment.

Testing of commercially available radiation equipment was performed by NIST to provide critical information regarding performance of such instruments to support decision-making in procurement and implementation. The full report is available in the *Results of Test and Evaluation of Commercially Available Survey Meters for the Department of Homeland Security*.

Other reports regarding radiation detectors are located on the SAVER Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/saver> as they become available. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program may also be found on the Web site.