

WISER



wiser.nlm.nih.gov

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

WISER (Wireless Information

System for Emergency Responders) provides the emergency responder with critical information on hazardous substances, including

- physical characteristics,
- human health data, and
- containment and suppression information.

Employing the unique characteristics of a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), WISER is customized for easy navigation and quick access to key information required by first responders.

To aid decision making, users specify their role at the scene of an incident, and WISER organizes critical information in a sequence most relevant to the first responder on-the-scene, Hazmat specialist, or emergency medical specialist (EMS).

The data in WISER comes from NLM's Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), a peer-reviewed database with comprehensive information on over 4700 hazardous substances. Data in HSDB comes from a variety of reliable sources and includes many which emergency responders currently use individually (in book and CD format) when on-site at a HAZMAT incident. WISER offers a trusted, one-stop tool for authoritative information on hazardous substances.

WISER can also be a useful source of additional information to the emergency responder working to identify an unknown substance:

- Using input about observed physical properties of the unknown substance and reported signs and symptoms in victims, WISER helps the user narrow the range of substances that may be involved.
- As the emergency responder selects observed properties and symptoms, WISER searches its database for chemical substances that have these characteristics.
- WISER provides a list of candidate chemicals during the identification process. This list decreases as additional user input is provided.

Information provided by WISER supports the first responder's need to make decisions quickly while handling a hazardous material incident.

PDA versions of WISER for Palm OS and for Pocket PC are now available at <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>. Desktop/laptop and Web-based versions are also available.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES