



**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;
- 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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Alternating- and Direct Current Detectors

During an all-hazards incident, emergency responders may need the ability to detect Alternating Current (AC) or Direct Current (DC). AC/DC Detectors alert responders of possible energized wires or power sources, allowing them to make an informed decision about their response plan. AC/DC detectors can be used during incidents such as downed power lines, storm damage, and alerting responders to the presence of AC in a wall about to be breached.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has conducted a comparative assessment of AC Detectors. Prior to the assessment, the CDP conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Alternating- and Direct Current (AC /DC) Detectors*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. More information is available in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Alternating- and Direct Current (AC /DC) Detectors*.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Alternating Current Detectors (AC Detectors)*, will be located on the on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



AC/DC Detector