



**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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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Automated External Defibrillators

According to 2007 American Red Cross statistics, sudden cardiac arrest claims more than 200,000 lives in the United States annually. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the muscles of the heart beat irregularly, causing the interruption of normal blood flow patterns. Without treatment, irreversible brain damage or even death can quickly occur. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) increases the chance of survival, but the survival rate can be greatly increased when CPR is used in conjunction with early defibrillation.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are portable defibrillation devices used to assess a victim's heart rhythm and determine whether a shock should be administered to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm. AEDs are lightweight, battery-operated, and transported easily. Many are located within community or public buildings, such as department stores or offices, for quick access.

In order to assist emergency response agencies in making purchasing decisions, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, developed the *Automated External Defibrillator TechNote* to provide more detailed information on this technology. The *Automated External Defibrillator Product/Vendor Matrix* is a product list intended to be representative of products in the marketplace. All reports in the series as well as reports on other technologies will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available.



Automated External Defibrillator