



**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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Level A Anti-Fogging Techniques and Procedures

With an increased threat of a terrorist attack and more responders of all disciplines training in personal protective equipment (PPE), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security tasked the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) program with assessing methods of preventing faceshield fogging in encapsulated suits. Faceshield fogging hinders responder performance, and condensation removal requires responders to divert crucial time from the response task.

A common method used by responders to reduce fogging has been the application of dish soap to the faceshield. The CDP conducted a small-scale evaluation of the dish soap technique and compared its effectiveness to several other anti-fogging products or approaches. This assessment was integrated into normal CDP training scenarios and was conducted by responders attending training at the CDP.

A focus group was conducted to recommend assessment criteria to be used for the Level A Anti-Fogging Integrated Training Assessment. Results of the focus group can be found in the *Level A Anti-Fogging Products and Techniques Focus Group Report*.

Internet research and manufacturer surveys were conducted to determine if any of the anti-fogging products or techniques have any known adverse effects on the integrity of the Level A suit. Results of the responder and manufacturer surveys are presented in the *Level A Anti-Fogging Techniques and Procedure Market Survey Report*.

Other reports in the series include: *Analysis Report: Level A Anti-Fogging Products and Techniques Integrated Training Assessment* and *Assessment Report: Level A Anti-Fogging Products and Techniques Integrated Training Assessment*.

All reports are available on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.