



**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>

Breaching and Breaking Tools

Breaching and breaking tools (BBT) are commonly used by emergency responders to access buildings, vehicles, and other locked enclosures. A variety of breaching and breaking tools are available to the responder community including halligan bars. Halligan bars are used by law enforcement and firefighters in a variety of applications. As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of halligan bars.

In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria and scenarios. Recommendations may be found in the *Breaching and Breaking Tools Focus Group Report*. The *Breaching and Breaking Tools Market Survey Report* provides more details on commercial off-the-shelf BBT.

These reports as well as the *Breaching and Breaking Tools Assessment Report* will be placed on the on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



Halligan Bar