



**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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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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Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles

Blast resistant trash receptacles are designed to diffuse the force of an explosion by directing a blast upwards, thereby protecting bystanders from the fragmentation that results when an explosive device is detonated in an ordinary trash can.

To assist emergency responders, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles TechNote* provides an overview of how these receptacles work and are tested; applications and features are also discussed. The *Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the commercial marketplace.

In addition, the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division tested 15 different blast resistant trash receptacles using bare (non-fragmenting) explosive charges and a fragmenting pipe bomb in order to evaluate vendor claims. The full detailed analysis may be found in the report, *Test Results of Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles*.

All reports in this series are available in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website, <https://www.rkb.us/saver>. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



Blast Resistant Trash Receptacle After Testing