Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752
E-mail: saver@dhs.gov
Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:
https://www.rkb.us/saver

Single-Use and Rechargeable Batteries

Batteries convert stored chemical energy to electrical energy when they are used within a device. Rechargeable batteries can be used and recharged many times, but single-use batteries need to be replaced when the stored energy is expended. Once the stored energy in a rechargeable battery is depleted, a battery charger is used to return the battery to the state of containing a full charge.

Emergency responders rely heavily on battery-powered equipment while carrying out their duties. To ensure that potentially life-saving equipment is ready to use when needed, it is important for responders to have fully-charged or fresh batteries on hand.

As a SAVER Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston performed research on commercially available single-use and rechargeable batteries.

The findings are published in the *Single-Use Batteries TechNote* and *Rechargeable Batteries TechNote*, which are located on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER). Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.

Internal View of a Single-Use Battery