



**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>

Bridging/Patching/Gateway Equipment

Federal, state, and local emergency response agencies maintain their own radio communications networks, which are often incompatible with each other. To ensure interoperability between multiple agencies at an incident site, bridging/patching/gateway equipment can be used. Gateway systems manage individual radios—provided by each agency and connected to the system—by rebroadcasting transmissions to all connected radios; this allows communications over one agency's radio network to be passed on to all networks connected to the gateway.

To assist emergency responders in making procurement decisions, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate established the SAVER Program. As a SAVER Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic has conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Bridging/Patching/Gateway Equipment Market Survey Report*.

All reports will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



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