



**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?"

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>

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

SCBA are an essential component of personal protective equipment (PPE). An SCBA is an atmosphere-supplying respirator which utilizes a breathing air source designed to be carried by the user. An SCBA consists of a facepiece, harness, hose, first and second stage regulators, and an end-of-service time indicator (EOSTI). SCBA are typically rated for 30, 45, or 60 minutes of service life, but may be rated for other service lives in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 42 CFR Part 84. Variations exist in harness designs, cylinder types, and facepieces.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) conducted a comparative assessment of SCBA for the SAVER Program in January 2008. Prior to the assessment, the CDP conducted market research in order to provide information on commercially available equipment and produced the *Market Survey Report on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available.



Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus