



**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>

Chain Saws for Firefighting and Rescue

Chain saws are used for firefighting, rescue, and forcible entry by wildland firefighters, structural firefighters, and Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams.

To assist emergency responders in selecting chain saws for procurement, Texas A&M Engineering—Texas Engineering Extension Service US&R, in coordination with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, has prepared a series of documents for the SAVER Program. The *Chain Saws for Firefighting and Rescue TechNote* provides detailed information on this technology. The *Chain Saws Market Survey Report* provides information on commercially available chain saws, and the *Chain Saws Application Note* provides information and recommendations on the operational usage of chain saws.

All reports are placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Reports on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



Northern California Fire Crews Clearing Fire Line and Monitoring a Back Burn