



**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>

Guide for the Selection of Chemical Agent and Toxic Industrial Material Detection Equipment for Emergency First Responders, Guide 100-04, Volumes I and II

Chemical agents are chemical substances that were intended for use in military operations to kill, seriously injure, or incapacitate because of their effect upon human physiology. In the context of this guide, the term 'chemical agent' refers to nerve and blister agents only.

The Office of Law Enforcement Standards at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Technical Support Working Group, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, and the Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability has developed a chemical agent defense equipment guide that was published in two volumes. Volume I represents the actual guide and Volume II is a supplement to Volume I, containing only the detection equipment data sheets.

The guide focuses specifically on chemical agent and toxic industrial material detection equipment, personal protection, decontamination, and communication, and was developed as a resource for the emergency responder community in the evaluation and purchase of such equipment.

The *Guide for the Selection of Chemical Agent and Toxic Industrial Material Detection Equipment for Emergency First Responders, Volume I & II* may be found on the SAVER Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>. Subsequent reports will be placed on the site as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.