



**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>

Combination Hydraulic Power Tools

Hydraulic power tools are typically used by emergency responders during search and rescue efforts to ensure that victims are extricated quickly and safely. These types of tools—spreaders, cutters, rams, and combination tools—are usually distinguished by the particular function they provide. Combination hydraulic power tools are invaluable to responders in that they perform cutting and spreading functions. Combination tools are typically used to create purchase, or entry, points prior to the arrival on the scene of larger, dedicated tools. They may also be used as the primary tool in instances where only one tool is required.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a comparative assessment of combination hydraulic power tools for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Hydraulic Power Tools*. 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 Hydraulic Power Tools* report.

All reports in this series, including the *Assessment Report on Hydraulic Power Tools* will be located in the SAVER section of RKB 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.



Combination Hydraulic Power Tool Assessment