



**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>

Portable Communications Repeaters

Emergency responders perform many public safety functions, including law enforcement, fire fighting services, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), emergency management, mutual aid, and task force operations. These agencies require portable communications repeaters (PCRs) for operations where coverage is intermittent or unavailable. The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, authored the following reports pertaining to PCR:

The Portable Communications Repeaters Needs and Requirements for Emergency Responders Report documents the needs and requirements that were identified by reviewing historical documentation, conducting user interviews with experienced emergency responders, hosting a focus group meeting with emergency responders and communications subject matter experts, identifying operational needs, and documenting the requirements.

The Portable Communications Repeaters Market Survey presented 12 portable repeater solutions, which had specifications that met a majority of the emergency responder's requirements. Vendors of these products were invited to participate in a technical assessment of Very High Frequency (VHF) repeaters. Four vendors had repeaters available during the assessment time frame and agreed to provide demonstration units. The models reported in the assessment are not meant to be viewed competitively, but rather provide a representation of the Land Mobile Radio industry's product offerings.

The Portable Communications Repeaters Technical Assessment Report presents findings from an assessment of two dual mobile radio repeaters and two fixed site-based repeaters. The overall assessment revealed the differences in PCRs and clarified the need for public safety agencies to carefully review their individual operational and functional requirements before selecting a PCR.

The Portable Communications Repeaters Technology Guide provides examples that illustrate when PCRs are needed, defines the types and characteristics of PCRs, and provides agencies with information on how they can locate a product vendor.

All reports in the series are available on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>), as well as reports on other technologies.