



**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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## Dive Computers

Emergency response divers conduct operations in various underwater settings, including caves and shallow or deep water. These operations include search and rescue, mapping, and environmental or survey assessments. Dive computers provide important diver safety information needed by emergency response divers during these operations. Information monitored by a dive computer may include depth, maximum depth, remaining dive time, rate of ascent, ambient temperature, and decompression status.

To assist emergency responders making procurement decisions, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. As a SAVER Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic conducted a comparative assessment of dive computers. Prior to the assessment, a market survey was conducted in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and the *Dive Computers Market Survey Report* was produced. 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 *Dive Computers Focus Group Report*.

All reports in this series, including the *Dive Computers Assessment Report*, will be located in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base 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.



**Dive Computers Assessment**