



**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>

Electronic Mass Notification Systems

Electronic mass notification systems allow officials to notify groups of people about emergency incidents, such as chemical spills, evacuation orders, fires, storm warnings, or abductions.

Computerized systems allow officials to send alert messages with relevant emergency information to specific groups of people promptly via landline phones, cellular phones, e-mail, pagers, personal digital assistants, and instant message programs. An emergency notification can be initiated at the system interface, from the Internet, or over the phone.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, has developed the *Electronic Mass Notification Systems TechNote*, in order to provide emergency responders with more detailed information on this technology.

This TechNote as well as reports on other technologies will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available.