



**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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<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personal Protective Equipment

Currently available commercial and military bomb suits are comprised of a number of style and component variations, and are being used in a widening scope of disposal operations. The head-to-toe coverage and ballistic material requirements in achieving this level of protection produce a system that is invariably heavy and bulky, imposing body movement restriction, fatigue, heat stress, and potentially reduced operational performance. It is necessary, therefore, to maximize the integration between the suit and the wearer to minimize these adverse effects. The U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center has published the following documents on Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

The Standardized Ergonomic and Human Factors Evaluation Criteria for Selection and Purchase of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personal Protective Equipment Report categorizes and prioritizes procedures needed to match the appropriate bomb suit and its attending features to the user group and their particular operational requirements.

The Literature Survey of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personal Protective Equipment Report is a comprehensive literature survey on EOD PPE that focuses on test methods against EOD threats. The literature survey also makes recommendations on test methods to be considered for the evaluation of PPE.

Additionally, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center completed a market survey report of EOD PPE providers. The *International Market Survey of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personal Protective Equipment* identifies available manufacturers and includes available literature and test data.

All reports are located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Reports on other technologies being assessed by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.