Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SAVER

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 responder 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 response equipment; and

- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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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Escape Route Modeling Software Tools

Escape route modeling tools help identify potential vehicular bottlenecks and determine the efficient evacuation routes from a city or other highly populated area. These computer-based models can quickly provide simple point-to-point routes to use during a hurricane, flood, fire, or other emergency.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right escape route modeling software tools for their jurisdiction, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Escape Route Modeling Tools TechNote* describes modeling approaches as well as applications and tools. The *Escape Route Modeling Tools Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace.

In addition, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic produced a comprehensive report and a product and vendor catalog. The *Vehicle Escape Route Modeling Software Study Comprehensive Report* discusses the current software market, uses and capabilities, selection and implementation considerations, data requirements, supporting technologies, and future trends. The *Escape Route Modeling Software Tools Product and Vendor Catalog* identifies available commercial and government off-the-shelf products, freeware, and custom software applications.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (https://www.rkb.us/saver) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

Simulation of Extensive, Complex Evacuation Networks (Graphic courtesy of Michael Hope, Argonne National Lab)