



**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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Extrication Devices

Extrication devices are commonly used in the emergency response community for removing victims with limited mobility. As with most emergency response equipment, varying manufacturers and models are available. As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has conducted a comparative analysis on several available models. This assessment is unique in that practitioners operated non-motorized extrication equipment within standardized weapons of mass destruction (WMD) scenarios.

In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish evaluation criteria, operational outcomes, and potential scenarios for the evaluation of WMD response extrication equipment. The focus group recommendations are available in the *Focus Group Evaluation and Criteria Recommendations for Extrication Devices*.

A market survey was conducted to identify available extrication devices. Results were published in the *Market Survey for Responder Assessment/Validation of User Equipment Extrication Devices*.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report of Non-Motorized Extrication Devices* are available on the SAVER website at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>. Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



Extrication Devices