



**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>

Eye Protection (Tactical Goggles)

Eye protection (used for field operations, including polarized sun protection for water operations) helps prevent eye injuries from occurring during law enforcement, search and rescue, medical, and HAZMAT operations. Comfort, anti-fogging capabilities, durability, and the level of protection are all important factors in selecting the proper protective sunglasses and tactical goggles.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation will perform a comparative assessment of tactical goggles that meet American National Standards Institute Z87.1 standards, that are used by firefighters, medical personnel, and law enforcement. User feedback will be shared with emergency responders in order to assist in informed selection and procurement.

Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment. The *Market Survey Report on Eye Protection* provides information on protective sunglasses, goggles, and safety glasses.

A focus group was conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group recommendations can be found in the *Focus Group Report on Eye Protection*.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Eye Protection*, will be located on the on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.