



**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>

Photo-Ionization and Flame-Ionization Detectors

Emergency responders who encounter contaminated or potentially contaminated areas may use Photo-Ionization and Flame-Ionization Detectors (PID/FID) to survey the site for the presence of toxic and explosive vapors.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) will perform an assessment on PID/FID to provide comparative assessment information to first responders.

In preparation for the assessment, the CDP has conducted a focus group on PID/FID to determine operational criteria important to responders when making operational and acquisition decisions relating to PID/FID. Results are available in *Focus Group Recommendations: Photo-Ionization and Flame-Ionization Detectors*.

In addition, a market survey was prepared that provides a snapshot of the commercial PID/FID currently available to the responder community. The *Market Survey Report Photo-Ionization and Flame-Ionization Detectors* addresses PID/FID user needs, equipment procurement issues, and the implementation of PID/FID in emergency response situations.

All reports in the series, including the *Photo-Ionization and Flame-Ionization Detectors Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Reports on other technologies being assessed by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.