



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

## Fingerprint Processing and Identification Equipment

Fingerprints—the small ridges of skin that form a unique pattern for each person—have been used as a means of identification for more than 100 years. Fingerprint processing and identification equipment is used to capture fingerprints, identify minute details unique to an individual, and convert those minutiae into a system of numerical values that can be searched using recognition software.

To assist emergency responders, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Fingerprint Processing and Identification Equipment TechNote* provides an overview of the components of fingerprint identification systems. Certifications, evaluations, and standards are also discussed. The *Fingerprint Processing and Identification Equipment Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace.

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.



Photo courtesy of Homeland Security Investigations

### Optical Fingerprint Scanner