



**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>

## First Aid Kits

Trauma type first aid kits are typically used at any emergency scene by emergency responders with basic medical training (e.g., law enforcement officers and firefighters). The kits allow these responders to administer aid until trained medical personnel such as emergency medical technicians and paramedics can arrive and administer advanced treatment to the victims.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of first aid kits. Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on First Aid Kits*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. More information is available in the *Focus Group Recommendations on First Aid Kits*.

These reports, as well as the *Assessment Report on First Aid Kits*, are placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**First Aid Kit**