



**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>

Geographic Information Systems

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSSYSCEN), Charleston was tasked by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to conduct a study on geographic information system (GIS) software.

The *Geographic Information System Software Assessment & Validation Guide* and the *Geographic Information System Software Assessment & Validation Study—Comparative Product Performance Results* present comparative performance results for three GIS software products utilizing a combination of objective performance monitoring approaches and subjective functional or performance metrics.

The SPAWARSSYSCEN also published the *Geographic Information System Mapping Software Tools Market Survey Report*, which identifies and summarizes commercial off-the-shelf, government off-the-shelf, freeware, and custom GIS mapping software applications.

In addition, the SPAWARSSYSCEN published the *Geographic Information System Mapping Software Tools Product and Vendor Catalog* that provides an initial compilation of GIS software products that may aid the emergency responder community and facilitate the integration of these products into existing or future GIS operations.

All reports in the series are located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Reports on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.