



**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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Handheld Lights for Search and Rescue

Hand-held lights are commonly used by emergency responders to conduct search and rescue operations in darkened and/or nighttime environments. Low-light situations (or scenarios where no light is present) restrict response capabilities, lengthen response times, and increase risks. Hand-held lights enable responders to illuminate these areas so that targets can be identified, tasks can be performed correctly, and tragedies can be prevented.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a comparative assessment of hand-held lights emphasizing search and rescue operations for the SAVER Program. 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 Hand-Held Lights*. A focus group was conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Hand-Held Lights* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Hand-Held Lights* 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.



Handheld Light