



**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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Helmet-Mounted Lights

Helmet-mounted lights can be essential in enabling emergency workers to conduct search and rescue operations in darkened and/or nighttime environments. Helmet-mounted lights provide hands-free maneuverability, which enhances rescue efforts and the ability to carry other necessary equipment. Emergency responders commonly use helmet-mounted lights as primary and secondary light sources during firefighting and search and rescue operations—especially in collapsed structure and confined space rescues.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of helmet-mounted lights. In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria, scenarios, and test products. Focus group recommendations may be found in the *Helmet-Mounted Lights Focus Group Report*. The *Helmet-Mounted Lights Market Survey Report* provides information on commercial off-the-shelf helmet-mounted lights.

These reports, as well as the *Helmet-Mounted Lights Assessment Report* will be placed 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.



Helmet-Mounted Light