



**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>

High-Visibility Vests

High-visibility vests are an important type of personal protective equipment used by emergency responders. These vests are characterized by reflective strips and fluorescent materials which make responders more visible during day or night operations. As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of high-visibility vests.

In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria and scenarios. The results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on High-Visibility Vests*. The *Market Survey Report on High-Visibility Vests* provides more details on commercial off-the-shelf high-visibility vests.

These reports, as well as the *Assessment Report on High-Visibility Vests*, will be 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.



High-Visibility Vest