



**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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## Hydraulic Rescue Tools

Hydraulic rescue tool systems are predominately used during the extrication of occupants of vehicles that have been involved in traffic accidents. Removal of an automobile door was identified as the most frequently executed procedure associated with the application of hydraulic tool systems.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Texas A&M University (TAMU) System, Engineering Program Office has been tasked to provide expertise and analysis on key emergency response related subject areas such as heavy rescue tool systems, technical search devices, hydraulic extrication tool systems, and emergency response management systems.

A market survey of hydraulic rescue tools was conducted to identify specific measurable and subjective criteria that are routinely considered when comparing similar products that are classified as hydraulic rescue tool systems. Results of their efforts may be found in the *Hydraulic Rescue Tools Market Survey* report.

More data was gathered regarding currently available hydraulic rescue tools and presented to an emergency responder focus group. The focus group established evaluation criteria, operational outcomes, and potential assessment scenarios. The focus group recommendations are available in the *Hydraulic Rescue Tools Evaluation Focus Group Report*.

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



**Hydraulic Rescue Tool**