



**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>

In-Suit Communication Equipment

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), a SAVER Technical Agent, assessed response team communications while wearing Class 1 and Class 3 personal protective equipment (PPE). In an effort to improve communication capabilities, a comparative assessment of in-suit communications devices used by emergency responder teams was conducted over distances of less than 500 meters in a weapons of mass destruction environment.

Prior to the assessment, a focus group was held to establish operational criteria important to responders when making operational and acquisition decisions relating to ISC equipment. The opinions of the focus group may be found in the *In-Suit Communications Equipment Focus Group Report*.

Internet research, distributor and manufacturer surveys of ISCs were conducted to identify the commercial ISC equipment currently available to the responder community, and information was presented in the *In-Suit Communications Equipment Market Survey Report*.

The *In-Suit Communications Equipment Assessment* and the *In-Suit Communications Equipment Analysis* reports are available on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). All reports in the series as reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER program can also be found on the Web site.



In-Suit Communication Equipment