



**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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Law Enforcement Tactical Protective Padding

Law Enforcement Tactical Protective Padding (LE Padding) is described by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Authorized Equipment List as general protective pads that provide protection for elbows, knees, neck, and shins while conducting tactical law enforcement operations. As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) will perform a comparative assessment of LE Padding to address how the equipment performs within the following SAVER categories—capability, usability, affordability, deployability, and maintainability. User feedback will be shared with law enforcement personnel across the nation to assist in informed selection and procurement.

In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria, scenarios, and test products. The focus group criteria recommendations may be found in the *LE Padding Focus Group Report*. Also, the *LE Padding Market Survey Report* was published, which provides details on commercial, off-the-shelf LE Padding.

These reports, as well as the *LE Padding Assessment Report*, 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.

Figure Title