



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

**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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<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

# Highlight

## Lifting Airbags

Lifting airbags can be essential during rescue operations, enabling emergency workers to conduct response activities that may otherwise be impossible. Lifting airbags allow responders to overcome environmental barriers, and increase access to victims. Firefighters and emergency response personnel continually face diverse working environments involving building collapse, industrial entrapment, excavation collapse, and vehicle accidents including extrication.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of lifting airbags. In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was held to establish assessment criteria, scenarios, and the products to be tested. Recommendations can be found in the *Lifting Airbags Focus Group Report*. SAIC also authored the *Lifting Airbags Market Survey Report* to provide comparative data on lifting airbags currently available to the responder community.

All documents in this series, including the *Lifting Airbags Assessment Report*, will be located 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.



**Lifting Airbags Assessment**