



**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>

Mask Leak/Fit Testers

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has performed an assessment of Mask Leak/Fit Testers (MLFTs). The information generated from the evaluation will be provided to jurisdictions to help determine the suitability of MLFTs for those individual communities. User feedback will be shared with emergency responders across the nation to assist in informed selection and procurement of equipment.

In preparation for the assessment, information was gathered on currently available MLFTs and presented to an emergency responder focus group. The focus group provided measurable evaluation criteria and useful insights into the types of assessment activities relevant to this type of equipment. Focus group recommendations are available in the *MLFT Focus Group Recommendations* report.

The purpose of the *MLFT Market Survey Report* is to identify MLFT equipment representative of currently available products in the marketplace with similar employment techniques and capabilities. The research addresses MLFT technologies, equipment procurement issues, and applicable equipment standards.

All reports in the series, including the *MLFT Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



MLFT