



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

Multipurpose Cutoff Saw Blades

New technology has produced multi-purpose cutoff saw blades which will cut through wood, steel, masonry, glass, and concrete. These saw blades can be used for a number of emergency response applications, including vehicle extrication, structural collapse, firefighting, and forcible entry.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Texas A&M Engineering—Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the Dwight Look College of Engineering (COE)—has been tasked by DHS to perform a comparative assessment of multi-purpose cutoff saw blades.

In preparation for the assessment, an emergency responder focus group was held to provide measurable evaluation criteria and useful insight into comparative assessment activities. The *Focus Group Report for Multi-Purpose Cutoff Saw Blades* details the focus group recommendations.

The *Multi-Purpose Cutoff Saw Blades Market Survey Report* investigates the saw blades currently available on the market that are designed for the level of heavy duty work that fire and rescue teams perform.

All reports in the series, including the *Multi-Purpose Cutoff Saw Blades 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.