



**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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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>

## Shelf Stable, Ready-to-Eat Food Packs

Emergency responders may be required to work in remote settings or in areas that have been compromised after an incident or natural disaster. In the absence of other means of sustenance, shelf stable, read-to-eat food packs are used to provide responders with nourishment and enable mission completion. Food packs may also be provided to civilian populations.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right food packs for their jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Shelf Stable, Ready-to-Eat Food Packs Technical Guide* provides an overview of food packs as well as information on procurement, storage, and disposal. The *Shelf Stable, Ready-to-Eat Food Packs Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



**Shelf Stable, Ready-to-Eat Food Pack**