



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office  
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: [saver@dhs.gov](mailto:saver@dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

## Mass Notification Systems

Mass notification systems simultaneously broadcast real-time alerts and information to large numbers of individuals. These systems can be used for routine communication, for example, to announce meetings or building closures; however, the primary function or purpose of mass notification systems is to quickly alert people to potential threats or emergency situations and direct what to do in response to the situations. Warnings and instructions can be broadcast in audible and visible formats by various traditional and electronic means.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right mass notification system for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Atlantic, has prepared a handbook for the SAVER Program. The *Handbook of Mass Notification Systems* details the different types of notification systems, as well as various components for each. The handbook also describes applications, emerging technologies, and mass notification system selection considerations.

The handbook will be placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) once it becomes available. Additional reports and information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



**Traditional Wireless Mass Notification System**