



**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>

## Mobile X-ray Systems for Search and Inspection

Mobile X-ray technology has advanced significantly driven by the need to intercept explosives, weapons, or other contraband before they can be smuggled aboard commercial airliners or into restricted areas. Carefully designed X-ray sources that minimize stray radiation are used with sensitive high resolution detectors and sophisticated image processing software to interrogate objects such as carry-on baggage with transmitted, reflected (backscattered), or two X-ray energies. These advanced features are now available in van-mounted mobile systems, and some are available in lightweight hand carried systems, which may be used by emergency responders in the field.

To assist emergency responders in making procurement decisions, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate established the SAVER Program. As a SAVER Technical Agent, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared the *Mobile X-ray Systems for Search and Inspection TechNote*, which provides information on current technologies and acquisition considerations.

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



**Mobile X-ray System**