



**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 assessments and validations on commercially available equipment and systems, and develops knowledge products that provide relevant equipment information to the emergency responder community.

SAVER Program knowledge products provide information on equipment that falls under the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL), focusing primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?" These knowledge products are 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 the assessment and validation activities and develop knowledge products. This highlight provides an overview of one such project.

For more information on this and other technologies, contact the SAVER Program Support Office.

E-mail: NUSTL@hq.dhs.gov

Website: www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER

Handheld Multi-Gas Detectors

(AEL reference number 07CD-01-DPMG)

Handheld multi-gas detectors are used by emergency responders when responding to calls where dangerous levels of gases may be present, such as unknown odors, fuel spills, clandestine laboratories, and during arson investigations. These devices help responders to determine whether the air is acceptable for normal, unprotected breathing, and whether the air is clear of potential contaminants.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Sandia National Laboratories prepared a series of documents to assist responders in selecting the right handheld multi-gas detectors for their agency. The *Handheld Multi-Gas Detectors TechNote* provides information on these types of devices, advantages and disadvantages, and product considerations. The *Handheld Multi-Gas Detectors Application Note* provides information and recommendations on the operational usage of these devices.

As they become available, all reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the DHS Science and Technology website, www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

