



**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>

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1994 Class 2 Terrorism Incident Protective Ensembles

NFPA 1994, 2007 edition, Class 2 ensembles include a suit or garment with attached or separate hood, attached or separate gloves, attached footwear or booties, outer protective boots, and a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that has been certified as compliant to *NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services* for chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) use. The ensemble is designed to protect the wearer's entire body. Class 2 ensembles provide limited protection to emergency first responders at terrorism incidents involving vapor or liquid chemical hazards where the concentrations are at or above immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) level, and require the use of SCBA.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) conducted an assessment of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved for CBRN Class 2 PPE. Prior to the assessment, the CDP held a focus group to determine evaluation criteria by which to measure Class 2 PPE effectiveness, the scenario used in testing, and the products to be tested. The results may be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1994 Class 2 Terrorism Incident Protective Ensembles Report*.

In addition, the CDP authored the *Market Survey Report on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1994 Class 2 Terrorism Incident Protective Ensembles* to provide information regarding commercial Class 3 PPE currently available to the responder community.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1994 Class 2 Terrorism Incident Protective Ensembles* will be placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>), as they become available. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.