



**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>

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) is a collaborative research and development effort designed to expand the capabilities of the current 9-1-1 system. NG9-1-1 is not a single application, technology or product, but rather a proposed entirely new communications architecture for 9-1-1 systems that will enhance the collaboration and applications of the emergency responder networks and public communication systems.

Widespread adoption of technological advances in communications create difficulties for the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and emergency responder communities, emphasizing the need to improve the existing 9-1-1 system. In response, the U.S. Department of Transportation, along with various public safety organizations, established the NG9-1-1 initiative to enhance public safety.

The *Next Generation 9-1-1 TechNote* offers an introduction to the NG9-1-1 system's inherent challenges, projected technological advances and operational usage.

Reports are 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.