



**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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Non-Sparking Tool Kits

Non-sparking hand tools were developed and introduced in the early 1900s. These tools were created to help reduce sparks that might ignite combustible products. They are intended for use in areas where a high risk of fire or explosion exists, such as the presence of flammable or combustible gases or vapors, liquids, dusts, or residues in hazardous environments. As a precaution, many companies use non-sparking hand tools to reduce the risk of fire or explosion, even when no mandatory requirements exist. Additionally, these tools have a non-magnetic property that makes them ideal for use on equipment with strong magnetic fields. It is imperative for anyone who works in potential volatile environments to be equipped with the proper tools in order to provide safety to the public and themselves and to protect the response area.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) conducted a comparative assessment of non-sparking tool kits for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, the CDP conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Non-sparking Tool Kits*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. The results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendation on Non-Sparking Tool Kits* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Non-sparking Tool Kits*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available.



Non-Sparking Tool Kit