



**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; and
- 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>

## Operational Space Visualization Software

Operational space visualization software can provide information concerning the layout and orientation of affected buildings or areas, giving emergency responders the ability to organize and disseminate incident plans, including detailed site information, the locations of emission sources, and the spread of airborne hazardous materials inside and outside of buildings. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software are integrated into graphical displays of both outdoor and indoor images of critical venues, allowing seamless information-sharing and collaboration.

To assist emergency responders in making procurement decisions, DHS S&T established the SAVER Program. As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) produced the *Operational Space Visualization Software TechNote* to answer basic questions about this technology area for the emergency responder community.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the RKB 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.



**GIS-based Image of Simulated Explosion**