



**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>

Personal Cooling Systems

First responders operating in high temperature or stressful environments, especially when using protective clothing and equipment, become very susceptible to the effects of heat stress. Elevated body temperatures and heat stress can endanger mission performance and the responder's health.

Personal cooling systems have been identified by emergency responders from federal, state, local, and tribal agencies as a critical tool to emergency response operations. With the responders needs in mind, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), as a SAVER Technical Agent, conducted a comparative field assessment on personal cooling systems.

Prior to the assessment, CDP convened a Responder Cooling System Evaluation Criteria Focus Group to recommend assessment criteria to be used for validating the effectiveness of equipment being tested by the Microclimate Cooling Team at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier (NATICK) Center. The focus group's recommendations may be found in the *Personal Cooling Systems Focus Group Report*.

The CDP assessment was conducted to provide impartial and relevant responder evaluations of personal cooling system performance in realistic weapons of mass destruction scenarios. Assessment results may be found in the *Personal Cooling Systems Assessment Report*.

CDP also published the *Personal Cooling Systems Analysis Report* to enable decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

All reports in the series are located on the SAVER program Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>, as well as reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program.