



**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>

## Personal Decontamination Kits

Personal Decontamination Kits (PDKITs) are lightweight, ready-to-use kits that allow responders to self-decontaminate or render assistance to a fellow responder following exposure to potentially hazardous materials. While PDKITs are not intended to replace a complete decontamination process, they can be used by law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel in emergency situations when Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) resources are limited or not available.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has been tasked to provide expertise and analysis on key subject areas. In support of this tasking and in consideration of information needs identified by responder focus groups conducted at the CDP, DHS has approved the research of PDKITs to provide emergency responders with reference information on currently available technologies, capabilities, limitations, and usability.

Data was gathered regarding currently available PDKITs and presented to an emergency responder focus group. The focus group established evaluation criteria, operational outcomes, and potential scenarios for a PDKIT assessment. The focus group recommendations are available in the *PDKIT Focus Group Recommendations Report*.

In addition, a market survey was conducted to identify PDKIT with similar employment techniques and capabilities that are representative of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and government off-the-shelf products (GOTS) currently available to the emergency responder community. The *PDKIT Market Survey Report* addresses PDKITs user needs, equipment procurement issues, and the implementation of PDKITs in emergency response situations.

All reports in the series will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Reports on other equipment being assessed by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.