



**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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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 website:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Personal Flotation Devices for Law Enforcement Use

When conducting operations in, on, or around water, law enforcement personnel may be required to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs). These devices are designed to be worn or thrown.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right PFDs for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic prepared a technote for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Personal Flotation Devices for Law Enforcement Use TechNote* provides an overview of U.S. Coast Guard PFD classifications, as well as brief descriptions of multi-purpose vests, hydrostatic collars, inflatable pouches, and flotation clothing.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website, <https://www.rkb.us/saver>, as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



FEMA News Photo

Law Enforcement Officers Patrol the Sherlock Park Area of East Grand Forks, MN. FEMA News Photo.