



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

Personal Hydration Systems

Personal hydration systems are used to proactively maintain emergency responders' hydration levels while operating in high heat stress environments. These systems consist of an ergonomically designed water bladder with a carrier that can be worn individually or integrated with load-bearing equipment or web harness systems. The bladder includes a drink tube, a positive shut-off, and a fill port. The carrier is typically made of abrasion-resistant material, and may have a sternum strap for added stability.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right personal hydration systems for their jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) has prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Personal Hydration Systems Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial market place. A focus group was also conducted to guide the development of the market survey report. Results can be found in the *Personal Hydration Systems Focus Group Report*.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base 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.



Personal Hydration System Carrier and Water Bladder