



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office  
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: [saver@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:saver@hq.dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

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

## Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) selection is a constantly evolving process that evaluates capabilities versus threats with the intention of identifying critical gaps and opportunities for improved protection or operational effectiveness. Objective measures of performance should be used to evaluate capabilities in order to maximize PPE suitability and effectiveness.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right PPE for their jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) prepared a selection guide for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Personal Protective Equipment Selection Guide* provides emergency responders with information on identification, selection, and validation of PPE in order to create a system of equipment to protect personnel against critical threats without hindering operational performance.

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.



**Cold Weather Personal Protective Equipment.  
FEMA News Photo.**