



**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>

Portable Weather Stations

A weather station is an observation post where meteorological conditions, such as wind speed, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, and precipitation, are observed and recorded. Some stations also calculate wind turbulence, dew point, and wind chill, and measure cloud height, visibility, and solar radiation.

By using portable weather stations, emergency responders can conduct more accurate hazard analyses, which can aid in determining safe response actions and enhancing public safety. The data output of many portable weather stations is designed to be used as input to plume dispersion models, which can be used to guide decisions on evacuation and shelter-in-place in case of accidental or intentional release of a hazardous material.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available portable weather stations, and produced the *Portable Weather Stations for Emergency Responders Market Survey Report*.

All reports in this series will be located in the SAVER section of the RKB Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Portable Weather Station