Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
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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Patient Simulation Technologies

Patient simulation technologies are often used in emergency responder training to teach and allow practice of basic and complex medical skills through hands-on experience. These technologies include partial task simulators and real-life simulators. Partial task simulators are used to teach a specific skill and include partial body simulators, virtual reality trainers, and manikins. Real-life simulators, commonly called human patient simulators (HPSs), are used to teach a wide range of medical procedures by replicating patient physiology in realistic emergency and routine medical situations.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right patient simulation equipment for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, has prepared a series of documents for the SAVER Program. The *Patient Simulation Technologies TechNote* details the types of technologies currently available, including partial body simulators, virtual reality trainers, manikins, and human patient simulators. The *Patient Simulation Technologies Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace for patient simulators. The *Patient Simulation Technologies Application Note* provides information and recommendations on the operational usage of patient simulation technologies.

All reports will be located on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available. Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.

Patient Simulation Laboratory