



**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?"

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

E-mail: saver@dhs.gov

Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

Pneumatic Hammers and Chisels

Hand-held pneumatic tools are commonly used by emergency responders during search and rescue operations and vehicle extrication. "Rescue" brands of pneumatic hammers and chisels utilized by emergency responders are typically designed for forced entry during fire and rescue operations in wreckage, rubble, building collapse, and other confined space environments.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of pneumatic hammers and chisels. In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria, scenarios, and test products. The focus group criteria recommendations may be found in the *Pneumatic Hammers and Chisels Focus Group Report*. The *Pneumatic Hammers and Chisels Market Survey Report* provides details on commercial, off-the-shelf pneumatic hammers and chisels.

These reports as well as the *Pneumatic Hammers and Chisels Assessment Report* will be located on the on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Pneumatic Hammers and Chisels Assessment