



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

Portable Biological Air Samplers

Portable biological air samplers are used by emergency responders in a number of applications, such as biological sampling and evidence collection. These activities may include, but are not limited to, responding to suspicious powder incidents, assessing symptoms of illness in public buildings, or ensuring that an area is clear of contaminants prior to a major event.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right portable biological air sampler for their jurisdiction, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) prepared a series of documents for the SAVER Program. SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Portable Biological Air Samplers*. A focus group was also conducted to identify equipment selection criteria, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Portable Biological Air Samplers* 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.