



**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; and
- 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 Identification Card Systems

Used for reading and creating identification cards, portable identification card systems typically include software applications and associated hardware. Agencies can use these systems as end-to-end solutions for managing personnel or for specific incident or event needs such as the printing of identification cards. Portable identification card systems typically support a range of personnel management functions identified in the National Incident Management System.

To assist emergency responders in making procurement decisions, DHS S&T established the SAVER Program. As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has conducted a comparative assessment of portable identification card systems for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, EKU conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Portable Identification Card Systems Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Portable Identification Card Systems Focus Group Report*.

All reports in this series will be placed 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 Identification Card System**