



**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>

Portable Loudspeakers

To improve the preparedness capabilities of today's emergency responders, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has performed an assessment of portable loudspeakers (LDSPKR) based on the recommendations of three operational needs focus groups that convened in June 2006. The assessment was conducted by emergency responders and addressed the five SAVER categories: usability, capability, affordability, maintainability, and deployability. The information generated from these evaluations will be provided to jurisdictions via reports to help determine the suitability of the devices for their individual communities. User feedback will be shared with emergency responders across the nation to assist in informed selection and procurement of user equipment.

In preparation for the assessment, preliminary equipment information was gathered and presented to participants of the LDSPKR focus group. The group met on November 2, 2006, and was tasked primarily with the development of evaluation criteria. Focus group recommendations are available in the *Portable Loudspeakers Focus Group Recommendations Report*.

The *Portable Loudspeakers Market Survey Report* identifies LDSPKR that are representative of equipment in the marketplace and competing off-the-shelf products that have similar employment techniques and capabilities. The research addresses LDSPKR user needs, equipment procurement issues, and applicable equipment standards. This survey represents an effort to exercise due diligence in the collection of valuable support information for emergency responders. The information provided is meant to be useful in determining the types of equipment necessary to improve a local jurisdiction's ability to implement LDSPKR technology in response to weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials incidents. It is not a complete catalog of available equipment.

These and other LDSPKR documents, including the *Portable Loudspeakers Assessment Report*, will be available on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.