



**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>

Remote Chemical Detection Systems

During a HAZMAT or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) chemical-related incident, responders need the ability to detect chemicals that could adversely affect the public, themselves, and their response. Response teams rely on portable, point detection Remote Chemical Detection Systems (RCDS) to detect chemical vapors in the air. RCDS alert responders who are at a remote location or command center of a chemical source at a disaster site, either through alarm systems or through wired or wireless data transmission. This assists responders in remaining at a safe distance from the affected area.

As a SAVER Program technical agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has conducted a comparative assessment of RCDS. Prior to the assessment, the CDP conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Remote Chemical Detection Systems (RCDS)*. A focus group was then held to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. More information is available in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Remote Chemical Detection Systems (RCDS)*.

These reports, as well as the *Remote Chemical Detection Systems (RCDS) Assessment Report*, are placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Remote Chemical Detection System