

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

First Responder Technology Assessments

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), through the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) program, conducts objective, relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of commercially available emergency response technologies. Results and analyses are provided to the first responder community through reports that are published on the SAVER website at www.dhs.gov/publication/system-assessment-and-validation-emergency-responders-saver.

Technology and Equipment Knowledge Products

First responders want to know, “What equipment is available?” and “How does it perform?” SAVER’s reports help first responders answer these questions. There are several types of knowledge products:

- **TechNotes** are two-page, high-level documents that answer basic questions on available technologies such as “What is it?”, “What is it used for?” and “How does it work?”
- **Assessment Reports** provide a comparative evaluation of the selected equipment based on criteria established in a focus group of responders. The equipment assessment is conducted by responders under simulated operational environments.
- **Focus Group Reports** provide evaluation criteria first responders consider when seeking information on equipment based on affordability, capability, deployability, maintainability and usability.
- **Handbooks** serve as reference documents for emergency responders and describe a technology’s capabilities and limitations, as well as operating principles and applications.
- **Market Survey Reports** describe the commercial marketplace for a particular type of equipment, including technical characteristics and manufacturer information.
- **Application Notes** contain information and recommendations on the operational use of a specific technology.

Impacting Acquisition Decisions

Through SAVER, NUSTL provides timely information to responder agencies enabling officials to better investigate, select, purchase, use and maintain their equipment.

These knowledge products are shared nationally with the responder community and provide a life and cost saving resource to local, state and federal responders by helping them make informed purchasing decisions.



Focus group on radiation isotope identifiers conducted at NUSTL with local, state and federal first responders.

Partnering With First Responders

Partnering with local, state, and federal first responders is essential for SAVER to define requirements, understand capability gaps, and to assess emergency response technologies and equipment. SAVER partners include: the New York City Police Department, New York City Fire Department, Westchester County Police, United States Coast Guard, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. NUSTL has reviewed and assessed technology related to standoff radiation detectors, biological agent detection equipment and handheld radionuclide identification devices.

SAVER has flexibility to work directly with first responders to develop tailored reports on demand by analyzing, evaluating and assessing technologies or areas of interest.

