



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office  
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: [saver@dhs.gov](mailto:saver@dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

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

## Life Safety Ropes

Emergency responders use life safety ropes during operations requiring access to steep, vertical, and near vertical terrain; when ascending or descending from multi-story buildings; and to conduct search, rescue, and recovery in maritime environments. Each of these scenarios may require a specific rope design to maximize the probability of mission success. When combined with auxiliary equipment such as harnesses and carabiners, an extremely adaptable system is created to support a wide range of operational activities.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right life safety ropes for their jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Life Safety Ropes Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace. A focus group was conducted to guide the development of the market survey report. Results can be found in the *Life Safety Ropes Focus Group Report*.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



FEMA News Photo

## Water Rescue Using Life Safety Ropes