



**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>

Sheltering Systems

Sheltering systems are characterized as components that can be assembled to provide everything required to house and support diverse missions. These missions may include temporary housing of evacuees and/or pets, hospital surge capacity, wildfires, search, rescue, structural fires, and tactical operations. Sheltering systems may include sleeping quarters, kitchens, medical facilities, command post operations, and decontamination units. Optional supplementary items for the sheltering systems may include insulation kits, anchoring kits, portable generators, lighting and electrical kits, water distribution, water collection, and hygiene systems.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Texas A&M Engineering—Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the Dwight Look College of Engineering (COE) has been tasked by the DHS to provide expertise on key emergency related subject areas such as rescue sheltering systems.

In support of this tasking, a comparative assessment of sheltering systems was performed. A market survey was published to provide comparative data regarding commercial, off-the-shelf sheltering systems. Their findings are available in the *Sheltering Systems Market Survey Report*. A focus group was conducted to establish criteria to be used for the assessment. The focus group recommendations can be found in the *Sheltering Systems Focus Group Report*.

These reports as well as the *Sheltering Systems Assessment Report* will be placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.