



**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?"

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

Small Package X-Ray Systems

Small Package X-Ray Systems (SPXS) are devices typically used at checkpoints such as airports, courthouses, and military installations to detect illicit items such as weapons, explosives, and miscellaneous contraband. Hand-carried items that are screened by SPXS include briefcases, purses, backpacks, camera bags, laptop computers, outerwear, and hand-carried packages.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division has been tasked by the DHS to provide expertise and analysis on key emergency response-related subjects pertaining to small package X-ray systems. In an attempt to identify all commercial off-the-shelf SPXS, Web-based, open-source market Internet research was performed, a "Sources Sought" request for information was e-mailed to all identified SPXS vendors, and collaboration with SPXS subject-matter experts took place. These efforts resulted in a comprehensive, although not exhaustive, list of COTS SPXS, which is found in the *Small Package X-Ray Systems—Market Survey Report*.

This report as well as reports other technologies are located on the SAVER Program Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>.