Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SAVER
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 responder 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 response equipment; and

- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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

Social Media Tools

Information sharing between public safety organizations and the public is critical during emergency situations. Through social media, members of the public who witness incidents can provide public safety organizations with timely, geographically based information, which can be used by decision-makers when planning response strategies and deploying resources. In turn, public safety organizations can use social media to provide current and accurate information to the public.

To assist emergency responders, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic prepared a report for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The report, *Innovative Uses for Social Media in Emergency Management*, provides an overview of current social media strategies used by public safety organizations to interactively engage with the public during all phases of emergency situations.

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.

Government Agency Using Twitter to Inform Public of Assistance Programs. FEMA News Photo.