

## System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

### Providing reliable information on emergency response equipment

When first responders need reliable information about equipment, technologies and systems to inform their procurement decisions, their first stop should be the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) program.

Established and managed by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), SAVER provides objective, practitioner-relevant, and operationally focused assessments and validations of commercially available, emergency response equipment. The results of the assessments enable responders to better select, purchase, use and maintain emergency response equipment.

### Addressing a wide range of technologies

SAVER contains More than 900 assessments of equipment that falls within 21 different categories on the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). Categories include:

- Search and Rescue
- Information Technology
- CBRNE Detection
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination
- Surveillance
- Explosive Countermeasures

This information is shared nationally with the responder community, providing a cost-saving resource to DHS and other federal, state and local agencies. Additionally, more than 20 different programs offer grants <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/knowledgebase/authorized-equipment-list-ael> to purchase equipment on the AEL List.

### Objective assessments and validations conducted by and for responders

SAVER is supported by a network of qualified technical agents who play a critical role in providing impartial evaluations and by helping to ensure these evaluations address real-world operational requirements.

Participating organizations include the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic, DHS S&T's National Urban Security Technology Laboratory as well as emer-

Table 4-2 Criteria Ratings

KEY		Criteria Ratings								
Least Favorable → Most Favorable										
Category	Evaluation Criteria	Aimpoint <sup>®</sup> Micro T-1 <sup>™</sup>	EXPS3 <sup>™</sup>	Trijicon <sup>®</sup> Reflex RX01NSN	SPARC	Z-Peak Red Dot Sight	Leupold <sup>®</sup> DeltaPoint <sup>™</sup>	Mepro 21	Master Series Red Dot 1x30mm	
Usability	Reliability									
	Ease of Use									
	Size									
	User Manual									
Capability	Target Acquisition									
	Optical Quality									
	Durability									
	Mounts									
	Reticle									
	Compatibility									
Maintainability	Easy to Maintain									
	Warranty									
	Technical Support									
Deployability	Setup									

Portion of a chart comparing models of non-magnifying patrol rifle sights from a SAVER assessment report

gency response practitioners, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and emergency managers, all of whom help to ensure these activities address real-world operational requirements.

Based on their assessments, technical agents produce documents, including product lists, reports, plans, rating charts, handbooks and guides that describe the equipment, their capabilities, features and potential applications. This provides first responders a well-rounded picture to help inform procurement decisions. Assessment results and other relevant information are posted on [FirstResponder.gov](http://FirstResponder.gov) and First Responder Communities of Practice sites.

"Information obtained from the SAVER program...has become essential to our department in making prudent technology procurement decisions. It is impractical for public safety agencies to comprehensively evaluate each type of first responder equipment...SAVER does this for us."

-Plano, Texas Police Department

