



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology

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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Highlight

Technical Decontamination Support Systems

Technical decontamination of emergency responder reconnaissance and entry operations personnel is an essential element of hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction response. Technical decontamination commonly refers to the deliberate decontamination of responders wearing personal protective equipment. However, it may also include the decontamination of emergency response equipment and evidence. Technical decontamination is performed with an emphasis on thorough agent removal or neutralization versus speed.

In order to provide emergency responders with information on currently available Technical Decontamination Support Systems (TDSS) components, the DHS Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) conducted a comparative assessment of three TDSS in October 2006, and provided findings in the *Technical Decontamination Support Systems Assessment Report*. The CDP also produced the *TDSS Market Survey Report*, which provides a snapshot of the commercial TDSS currently available on the market, and the *TDSS Focus Group Report*, which captures the method of establishing the operational criteria for the assessment.

All reports in this series are available on the SAVER Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>. Reports on other technologies being assessed by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Technical Decontamination Support System