



**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 assessments and validations on commercially available equipment and systems, and develops knowledge products that provide relevant equipment information to the emergency responder community.

SAVER Program knowledge products provide information on equipment that falls under the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL), focusing primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?" These knowledge products are 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 the assessment and validation activities and develop knowledge products. This highlight provides an overview of one such project.

For more information on this and other technologies, contact the SAVER Program Support Office.

E-mail: NUSTL@hq.dhs.gov

Website: www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER

Handheld Thermal Imagers

(AEL reference number 03OE-02-TILA)

All objects radiate energy in the form of electromagnetic waves, which can be generalized into two categories: visible waves and invisible waves; thermal imagers detect invisible electromagnetic waves in the infrared frequency range and convert them into visible light. Handheld thermal imagers are used to display heat signatures and residual heat signatures, making them valuable investigative tools for law enforcement and fire service personnel.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory prepared a series of documents to assist responders in selecting the right handheld thermal imager for their agency. The *Handheld Thermal Imagers Application Note* provides information and recommendations on the operational usage of thermal imagers.

As they become available, all reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the DHS Science and Technology website, www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

