



**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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## Tire Deflation Devices

High speed pursuits often take place on public roadways and have a high probability of injury or property damage. Spike strip systems call upon a variety of mechanical methods to defeat the integrity of a fleeing vehicle's tires. The systems must be capable of safely releasing the tire air pressure in a predictable, controlled manner. Texas A&M Engineering University (TAMU) has performed a comparative assessment of tire deflation devices to provide impartial and relevant information to the emergency responder community. While there are many tire deflation devices, TAMU focused on portable tire deflation devices used by law enforcement during high speed pursuits. The following reports are available:

*The Tire Deflation Devices—Spike Strips Focus Group Assessment Criteria Recommendations Report* identifies the essential criteria by which a system can be assessed as defined by a focus group. The *Tire Deflation Devices—Spike Strip Systems Market Survey Report* provides objective manufacturer data on tire deflation devices found via an Internet search.

*The Tire Deflation Devices—Spike Strip Systems Assessment Report* provides results of a comparative performance of four models of portable tire deflation devices that represented the known market at the time of assessment, as assessed by first responder practitioners. Reports are placed on the SAVER Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER> as they become available.



**Tire Deflation Device**