



**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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: saver@dhs.gov

Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Video Inspection Devices

Video inspection devices (VID) are an important tool in both day and night tactical and rescue applications. In seeking to meet a variety of applications, manufacturers have developed a variety of VID models. In order to provide emergency responders with information on currently available technologies, capabilities, and limitations, Texas A&M Engineering—Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEEX), and Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), with the support of the DHS, conducted comparative assessments on VID in February 2006 at Disaster City on the TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field, College Station, Texas. Texas A&M Engineering assessed nine VID models, and produced the following reports:

The Video Inspection Devices Focus Group Assessment Criteria Recommendations Report details the focus group identification of the essential criteria by which a system can be assessed and listings of what components make up a basic functional system. This information was used to determine which VID were included in the assessment and how the systems were to be functionally evaluated.

The Video Inspection Devices Market Survey Report categorizes the systems for use in rescue and tactical operations. The market survey provides a listing of six manufacturers with contact information and the specifications for both rescue and tactical video inspection devices.

The Video Inspection Devices Test Summary Report provides the results of the test that was conducted in simulated search-and-rescue and law enforcement tactical scenarios by a team of emergency response subject matter experts from around the country.

All reports in the series are available on the SAVER Web site. For more information on this and other technologies, visit the SAVER Web site at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>.