



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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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

Highlight

Watercraft-Mounted Thermal Imagers

Thermal imagers work by displaying the heat signatures of objects in their field of view. By relying on heat signatures rather than available light, thermal imagers can be used during day or night and in smoke, fog, rain, and total darkness. To combat the harsh operating environment encountered in maritime applications, vendors and manufacturers have developed marine-grade thermal imagers. These products are designed to be mounted to a watercraft and to withstand the harsh operating maritime environment.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSCEN), Charleston, conducted a comparative assessment of watercraft-mounted thermal imagers for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SPAWAR conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Watercraft-Mounted Thermal Imagers Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group recommendations can be found in the *Watercraft-Mounted Thermal Imagers Focus Group Report*.

All reports in the series, including *Watercraft-Mounted Thermal Imagers Assessment Report*, will be located on the on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Watercraft-Mounted Thermal Imagers