



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

## Shatter-Resistant Window Film

The U.S. government is initiating regulations and action plans that identify and mitigate potential infrastructure vulnerabilities. One major weakness identified is potential injury caused by flying window-glass fragments during an explosion or any high-pressure airburst incident.

As a SAVER Technical Agent, The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, performed research on the recent advancements in shatter-resistant window security film technology. Recent changes in government regulations for new and renovated government facilities, and new Federal Emergency Management Agency recommendations on the design of commercial buildings highlight the need for providing appropriate guidance to emergency responders. Enhanced window strength requires increased awareness of potential hazards associated with the use of this technology, specifically related to the ability of fire services to perform rescue operations in emergency situations.

The *Shatter Resistant Window Film—SAVER Summary* is located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>). Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**Shatter-Resistant Window Film**