Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
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

Air-Purifying Respirators

Air-Purifying Respirators (APRs) are used to provide respiratory protection to emergency responders operating in environments that are not oxygen deficient, but still require respiratory protection. Examples include conditions with heavy or hazardous air particulates or where there are low and known levels of certain chemical or biological agents. An APR uses an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element.

In March 2006, the CDP conducted a comparative assessment of six NIOSH-approved APR. In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group recommendations can be found in the *Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) Assessment Focus Group Report*. The *Air-Purifying Respirators Market Survey Report* provides information on commercial off-the-shelf APR. The *Air-Purifying Respirators Assessment Report* provides the results of a comparative assessment of APR.

Since the time of that first assessment, four additional APR were approved by NIOSH, and the SAVER Program conducted an additional comparative assessment in June 2007 to include any APR that were not previously assessed. The *Market Survey Report on Air-Purifying Respirators (APR), February 2008*, and the *Assessment Report on Air-Purifying Respirators (APR), November 2007* will also be placed 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.

Air-Purifying Respirator