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?"

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https://www.rkb.us/saver

Automatic Vehicle Locating (AVL) Systems

AVL systems designed for investigative operations enable law enforcement to discreetly track and monitor vehicles. AVL systems can report vehicle information to investigators such as the vehicle location, speed, and stops. This information is obtained by the system through communication with global positioning system (GPS) satellites.

There are two types of AVL systems: passive and active. Passive AVL systems, also known as data loggers, store GPS and other relevant data to an onboard storage device. Data loggers must be physically retrieved from the vehicle before the stored information can be downloaded and viewed. Active AVL systems can report events in real-time upon request and may be equipped with onboard storage options for record keeping purposes.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic conducted a comparative assessment of AVL systems for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SPAWARSYSCEN conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Automatic Vehicle Locating Systems 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 results can be found in the *Automatic Vehicle Locating Systems Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the Automatic *Vehicle Locating Systems Assessment Report* and the *Automatic Vehicle Locating Systems TechNote*, will be located on the on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available.

Automatic Vehicle Locating System