



**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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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

Technologies for Decontamination of Radioactive Building Surfaces

Buildings that are contaminated by a radiological dispersion device or an improvised nuclear device may be decontaminated using technologies that are used to decontaminate structures at commercial nuclear power plants and U.S. government nuclear facilities. There are several major types of decontamination technologies currently available, and responders must decide which technology works best for their individual jurisdictions.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) has prepared a series of documents for the SAVER Program. For example, the Technologies for Decontamination of Radioactive Building Surfaces TechNote details the different types of decontamination technologies currently available. It also describes the physical impact on the structures, as well as the type and volume of waste generated during operation.

The TechNote will be placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) once it becomes available. Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



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