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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Intrinsically Safe Exhaust Fans

Intrinsically safe exhaust fans are used by emergency responders during rescue operations to ventilate confined spaces or enclosed areas with contaminated atmospheres. Intrinsic safety is achieved by making certain that only low voltages and currents enter hazardous areas, and ensuring that the available electrical and thermal energy in the system is too low to pose an ignition hazard.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has conducted a comparative assessment of intrinsically safe exhaust fans for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Intrinsically Safe Exhaust Fans*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Focus Group Recommendations on Intrinsically Safe Exhaust Fans* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Intrinsically Safe Exhaust Fans*, will be located in the SAVER section of the RKB Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.

Intrinsically Safe Exhaust Fan Assessment