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

Explosive Detection Swipe Test Systems

Explosive detection swipe test systems are used by specially trained responders to confirm the presence of trace explosive materials. This equipment is used by law enforcement, security personnel, hazardous device technicians, and other responders to screen suspect packages, passengers and event attendees, vehicles (e.g., aviation, commercial transport, and automobiles), cargo, and documents (e.g., passports or boarding documents). The detection of trace explosive materials can indicate that a suspect individual has recently handled explosives or that a suspect parcel/container/vehicle could contain bulk explosive materials.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially equipment, and produced the *Market Survey Report on Explosive Detection Swipe Test Systems*.

All reports in this series 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.

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