



**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; and
- 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](mailto:saver@dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

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

## Gunshot Detection Systems

Gunshot detection systems detect and locate firearm discharges. First used by the military to detect incoming fire, they have been adapted for use by law enforcement to provide gunshot detection over a large area (often many square miles) to an accuracy of within a few feet. These systems use multiple sensor units to detect and locate gunshots. In addition to notifying law enforcement of gunshots, the data collected by gunshot detection systems can be used as forensic evidence during legal proceedings.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right gunshot detection system for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic has prepared the *Gunshot Detection Systems Technology Guide* for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. This guide includes information on how gunshot detection systems work as well as procurement considerations.

All reports in this series will be placed in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base website (<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 website.



**Acoustic Sensor Unit with Multiple Microphones and Integrated Camera**