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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752
E-mail: saver@dhs.gov
Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:
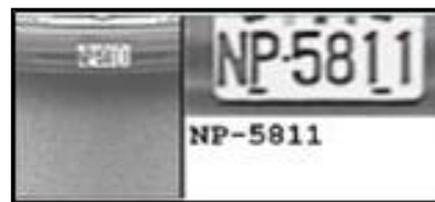https://www.rkb.us/saver

License Plate Recognition Technology

With the ever-advancing capabilities of modern computing platforms, new tools are becoming available to law enforcement professionals. Specifically, Automated Video Surveillance (AVS) technologies are now capable of extracting text from images using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. The combination of OCR with advanced heuristics (algorithms) within AVS technology has evolved into License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, which can automatically identify license plates.

LPR technology automates what is normally a tedious and labor-intensive process to provide information to law enforcement professionals. For example, LPR can be used for:

- Providing a list of all vehicles in a parking lot without requiring the positioning of guards at all entry and exit points
- Speed enforcement
- Access control/gate control
- Customs/immigration checkpoints
- Tracking and traffic management.

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, a SAVER Technical Agent, has published the *License Plate Recognition TechNote*, that details how LPR works and provides more specific example applications for this automated tool.

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