



**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 DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, and 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-saving 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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Portable Weather Stations

Responding to emergencies when chemical or biological agents are released into the environment require accurate atmospheric conditions data. Portable weather stations (PWS) and associated instruments can be used to help estimate the impact and movement of gases and particulates through the atmosphere. Using modern weather monitoring systems and networks, emergency responders can measure the winds, temperature, relative humidity, and pressure to help estimate the impact of the chemical or biological agents and to recommend public protection measures.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has been tasked to provide expertise and analysis on key subject areas. In support of this tasking and in consideration of information needs identified by responder focus groups conducted at the CDP, the DHS has approved the assessment of portable weather stations in order to provide emergency responders with reference information on currently available technologies, capabilities, limitations, and usability. The following reports are available:

The *Portable Weather Stations Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the commercial PWS currently available to the responder community.

The *Portable Weather Stations Focus Group Report* details how the focus group established operational criteria important to responders when making operational and acquisition decisions relating to PWS.

CDP assessed portable weather stations regarding their employment and effectiveness when used by emergency responders in an environment involving weapons of mass destruction. Test results may be found in the *Portable Weather Stations Analysis Report*.

All reports in the series as well as reports on other technologies are located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>).