



**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?"

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## Personnel Identification Systems

Personnel identification systems are designed and installed for the primary purpose of ensuring that only authorized individuals are allowed access into secure areas of a facility. The main components of a personnel identification system are an access control mechanism, an access control reader, a control panel, a database server, and lock hardware. These systems work by authenticating the identity of personnel, confirming that they should be granted access to the secure area, and then controlling the lock hardware to either grant or deny access.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right personnel identification system for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic prepared an application note for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Personnel Identification Systems Application Note* provides information and recommendations on the operational usage of personnel identification systems.

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 evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



## Access Control Technologies