



**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 responder 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 response equipment; and
- Providing information, in the form of knowledge products, that enables decision-makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency response equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the emergency 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@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:saver@hq.dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

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

## Radiation Mitigation Blankets

Radiation mitigation blankets provide temporary shielding from ionizing radiation, acting as a physical barrier that reduces or eliminates the passage of radiation. These blankets help prevent contamination and reduce exposure to radiation; however, they are not effective in protecting against inhalation of airborne radioactive material.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right radiation mitigation blanket for their jurisdiction, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Radiation Mitigation Blankets TechNote* explains how the blankets work, describes shielding materials, and covers applications and considerations. The *Radiation Mitigation Blankets Market Survey Report* provides a snapshot of the current commercial marketplace.

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.



Photo courtesy of  
Radiation Shield  
Technologies

## Responder Equipped with a Radiation Mitigation Blanket