



**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
Visit SAVER on the RKB website:
<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Ruggedized Computers

The operational needs of emergency responders may require the use of ruggedized computers—laptops, tablets, and other devices—that can withstand extreme temperatures, foreign objects and dust, liquids and humidity, and vibration and shock. These devices may be hand carried or strapped to the responder, mounted in a vehicle, or configured for other types of deployments.

To assist emergency responders in selecting ruggedized computers for their jurisdiction, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) prepared a series of documents for the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. The *Mobile Computing through the Cloud TechNote* provides a technology overview, discusses configurations and models, opportunities, risks, and applications. The *Touch Screens for Ruggedized Computers Technology Guide* provides an overview of touch screen technology, touch screen usability criteria, and a sample of ruggedized computers designed with touch screens. The *Ruggedized Computers Selection and Procurement Guide* provides market information and selection tools to assist responder agencies in purchasing or upgrading their ruggedized computers.

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.



Ruggedized Computer