



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology

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;
- 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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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

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

Highlight

Handheld Satellite Phones

Hand-held satellite telephones are mobile handsets that utilize satellites to communicate with landline, cellular, or other satellite phones. By communicating through satellites, emergency responders are able to coordinate rescue and recovery efforts in remote locations where there are no landline or cellular telephone networks or in areas where existing networks are overloaded or out of service during a disaster.

Emergency responders can purchase or rent a hand-held satellite phone from one of many service providers who charge fees for the phone's use. Calls can be routed through the United States and/or other countries covered by the service provider's network of satellites. Some service providers claim to provide global satellite coverage; however, their phones may not operate in embargo restricted countries.

To assist emergency responders in selecting the right hand-held satellite phones for their jurisdiction, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARCEN), Atlantic, has prepared a series of documents for the SAVER Program. For example, the *Hand-held Satellite Phones TechNote* details the technology, features, and cost considerations of hand-held satellite phones. It also describes additional considerations such as connections, coverage areas, and the instability of the satellite phone market.

All reports will be placed on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.



Handheld Satellite Phone System