



SAVER

System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Office of Grants and Training (G&T) is to provide Federal resources to strengthen State and local capabilities that will reduce the Nation's risk and increase the Nation's preparedness for addressing catastrophic events.

In support of this mission, the G&T Systems Support Division (SSD) provides objective assessments and evaluations of commercially available responder equipment, equipment training, and equipment-related exercises, and assists stakeholders with equipment investment and operational decisions.

SSD executes its assessment function through the SAVER (System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders) program. SAVER shares objective test and evaluation information with Federal, State, and local responder organizations to aid them with investment and operational equipment decisions. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL).

MISSION

The mission of the SAVER Program is to

- Provide impartial, practitioner relevant, and operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment.

- Provide information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.
- Assess and validate the performance of products within a system, as well as systems within systems.
- Provide information and feedback to the user community through a Web-based database.

THEMES

In order to most efficiently utilize funding and resources, the SAVER Program focuses on seven major thematic equipment test and evaluation areas. These areas are:

- Search and Rescue
- Information Technology
- CBRNE Detection
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination
- Surveillance
- Explosive Countermeasures

TECHNICAL AGENTS

The SAVER Program relies on Technical Agents to provide unbiased, objective equipment information to the emergency responder community. The current Technical Agents are:

- U.S. NAVY SPAWAR: Charleston
- DHS Center for Domestic Preparedness
- Texas A&M University

- U.S. NAVY NSWC: Dahlgren
- U.S. NAVY NSWC: Indian Head
- Technical Support Working Group
- DOE Nevada Test Site

SAVER REPORTS

The Technical Agents produce several different types of documents, which are then branded as SAVER reports upon receiving approval from G&T. The types of documents include: Newsletters, Highlights, Market Surveys, Product Lists, Focus Group Reports, Assessment Reports, Summaries, and TechNotes. Below is a brief summary of each type of document:

Newsletter: A quarterly four-page document to update the responder community on the latest information, projects, and activities in the SAVER program.

Highlight: A one-page overview of a particular SAVER project. The Highlight attempts to answer the following questions: ‘What is the project about?’ ‘Who is doing the project?’ ‘Why is it important to the responder community?’ and ‘When can I get the full report?’

Market Survey: A snapshot of the current commercial marketplace for a particular type of equipment. The report lists all known manufacturers of the equipment, their contact information, and salient technical characteristics of the equipment provided by the manufacturer. The information is gathered through Internet searches, sources sought and requests for information announcements, and other means, depending on the resources of the SAVER Technical Agent.

Product List: The Product List is derived from a Market Survey for very large surveys. It is a tabular document that gives succinct details about products including the name, manufacturer, point of contact, and a brief description.

Focus Group Report: This document lays out the criteria that subject matter experts and emergency responders believe are important to know when making an acquisition or other decision about an equipment item.

Assessment Report: The Assessment Report is a final technical report providing a comparative analysis of the tested equipment based on the focus group

criteria. It typically reiterates the criteria established in the focus group, gives an overview of the tests conducted, and presents the results in a ‘Consumer Reports’ style presentation.

Summary: A summary of the Assessment Report, typically four to five pages, presenting criteria from the focus group, the most important results, a comparative chart called a Quicklook, and conclusions.

TechNote: A high-level, two-page document that answers some basic questions about a technology area: ‘What is it?’ ‘How does it work?’ ‘Why do I care as a responder?’ ‘Where can I find more information on this?’ and ‘Who is using this technology?’

CURRENT PRODUCTS:

The SAVER Program currently has documents in the following nine AEL categories to aid responders with their investment and operational decisions:

- CBRNE Operational and Search and Rescue Equipment
- CBRNE Reference Materials
- Cyber Security Enhancement Equipment
- Detection Equipment
- Explosive Device Mitigation and Remediation Equipment
- Information Technology
- Interoperable Communications Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Other Documents

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the SAVER program or other initiatives of the Office of Grants and Training (G&T), please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at **1-800-368-6498** or askcsid@dhs.gov.