



FEMA

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. The SAVER Program conducts unbiased operational tests 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, and 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-saving and cost-saving asset to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 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
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<https://saver.fema.gov>

Air-Purifying Escape Respirators

The events of September 11, 2001, coupled with the subsequent anthrax attacks against several media and government offices raised public awareness of the need for chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) emergency preparedness. Air-Purifying Escape Respirators (APER) (figure 1) were developed to protect users from breathing harmful gases, vapors, and fumes for the limited time needed to exit a contaminated area and reach fresh air. The DHS Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) was tasked to evaluate selected APER authorized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for use in CBRN environments, and provide user-friendly equipment information in an effort to improve emergency responder and public self-rescue capabilities.

A focus group was conducted to establish assessment criteria to be used for the APER Assessment; recommendations can be found in the *Air-Purifying Escape Respirators Focus Group Report*. The *Air-Purifying Escape Respirators Market Survey Report* identifies commercial off-the-shelf APER and details issues to be considered when procuring this equipment.

All reports including the *Air-Purifying Escape Respirators Assessment Summary Report*, are available on the SAVER website (<https://saver.fema.gov>), as well as information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program.



Figure 1. Air-Purifying Escape Respirator

SAVER is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Systems Support Division.