



# 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 objective 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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 Visit the SAVER website:  
<https://saver.fema.gov>

## Underwater Swimmer Detection Systems

Maritime organizations, such as the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and port security agencies, have a long standing interest in the detection of underwater swimmers. Concerns over the vulnerability of maritime assets to terrorist attacks have resulted in a new generation of sonar systems capable of automated detection of an underwater swimmer. Underwater swimmer detection systems use high frequency sonar to detect and track underwater targets and sophisticated algorithms to determine if the target is a swimmer, or some other object.

In order to assist emergency response agencies in making purchasing decisions, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, developed the *Protecting Maritime Assets with Underwater Swimmer Detection Systems TechNote* for the SAVER Program to provide more detailed information on this technology. The *Underwater Swimmer Detection Systems Market Survey Report* provides information on commercially available equipment.

All documents are placed on the on the SAVER website (<https://saver.fema.gov>) as they become available. Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



**Underwater Swimmer Detection Systems**