



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
Telephone: 877-347-3371
E-mail: FEMA-ASKTS@fema.gov
Visit the SAVER website:
<https://saver.fema.gov>

Class 3 Personal Protective Equipment Ensemble

A National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) 1994 Class 3 personal protective equipment (PPE) ensemble includes a suit or garment with attached or separate gloves, and footwear or booties with outer boots (certified as compliant with NFPA 1994). The primary design feature of the ensemble is to minimize the inward leakage of liquids. The ensemble may be designed for use with a self-contained breathing apparatus or an air-purifying respirator; however, the suit and component parts do not offer protection from gases, vapors, or aerosols.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has conducted an assessment of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved for chemical biological radiological nuclear Class 3 PPE.

Prior to the assessment, the CDP held a focus group to determine evaluation criteria by which to measure Class 3 PPE effectiveness, the scenario used in testing, and the products to be tested. The resulting recommendations may be found in the *Class 3 Personal Protective Equipment Ensembles Focus Group Report*.

In addition, the CDP authored the *Class 3 Personal Protective Equipment Market Survey Report* to provide information regarding commercial Class 3 PPE currently available to the responder community. After comparing the available PPE, six types of suits, three types of gloves, and two types of boots were selected for use in the Class 3 PPE assessment.

All reports in the series are located on the SAVER program website at <https://saver.fema.gov>, as well as reports on other technology being assessed in the SAVER Program.

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