



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>

Multi-Purpose Reciprocating Saw Blades

New technology has produced multi-purpose reciprocating saw blades that will cut through wood, steel, masonry, glass, and concrete. These saw blades can be used for a number of emergency response applications, including vehicle extrication, structural collapse, firefighting, and forcible entry.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Texas A&M Engineering—Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the Dwight Look College of Engineering (COE)—has been tasked by the DHS to perform a comparative assessment of multi-purpose reciprocating saw blades.

In preparation for the assessment, an emergency responder focus group was held to provide measurable evaluation criteria and useful insight into comparative assessment activities. The *Focus Group Report for Multi-Purpose Reciprocating Saw Blades* details the focus group recommendations.

The *Multi-Purpose Reciprocating Saw Blades Market Survey Report* investigates the saw blades currently available on the market that are designed for the level of heavy duty work that fire and rescue teams perform.

All reports in the series, including the *Multi-Purpose Reciprocating Saw Blades Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER website (<https://saver.fema.gov>) as they become available. Information on other technology being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

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