



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?"

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<https://saver.fema.gov>

Concrete Saws

Emergency responders must be trained and equipped to respond immediately in the event of a crisis. Often, rescuers must extract people who are below collapsed or damaged concrete structures using readily available equipment, such as concrete saws (Figure 1). Rescue missions often require unconventional, difficult cuts, and it is not uncommon for an emergency responder to require light, versatile equipment with maximum performance capability.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Texas A&M University System Engineering Program Office has completed a full-scale assessment of concrete circular saws. Emergency responders from across the United States participated in the assessment activities—from providing input on the type of saw to be assessed through physical breaching of concrete slabs. The results of their efforts can be found in the *Concrete Saws: Assessment and Validation Report*.

The *Concrete Saws: Market Analysis and Technical Assessment Report* contains a technological assessment of concrete saw capabilities and characteristics, and a market survey of available concrete saws. All documents in the series are available on the SAVER website (<https://saver.fema.gov>). Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



Figure 1. Concrete Saws in Use

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