



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>

Chula Vista Demonstration

The Chula Vista Demonstration (CVD) applied advanced commercial network communications technology to the civil emergency response in a simulated terrorist strike scenario involving a hijacked chlorine tanker truck and diversionary tactics on a California freeway complex on November 17, 2004. The objective was to show an improved "command-response" system for local fire, police, emergency management, and other agencies and facilities. This was achieved by combining legacy voice radios, wireless data "hotspot" access points carrying high speed digital multimedia, and commercial software systems to integrate the network elements (e.g., radios, wireless terminals and workstations) in real time and analyze the data to indicate, for example, likely vapor plume dispersion.

The *Chula Vista Demonstration Proof of Concept Evaluation Report*, prepared by the Naval Research Laboratory for the DHS, is limited to one aspect of the demonstration: the communications and networking technologies evaluated in terms of their apparent strengths and weaknesses in the context of the demonstration. The evaluation methodology utilizes real time observer reports and subsequent analyses. The evaluation objectives are to provide feedback to the CVD program and an overview to interested parties of how well these technologies appeared to facilitate effective emergency response to the scenario.

This report has been made available on the SAVER website (<https://saver.fema.gov>). Reports on other technologies are also available on the website.

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