

Let's Keep M8A1 Alarmed



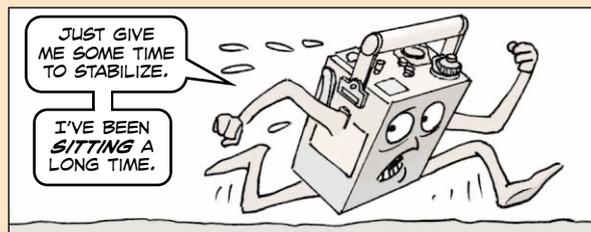
IF YOUR M8A1 CHEMICAL AGENT ALARM *DOESN'T* STAY ALARMED, YOU COULD HAVE **ALARMING RESULTS.**

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS NBC NCOs AND OPERATORS CAN KEEP THE M8A1 SNIFFING FOR DANGER.

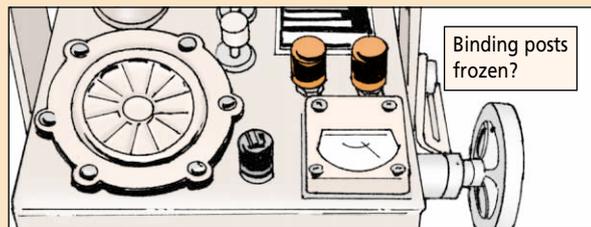


PMCS

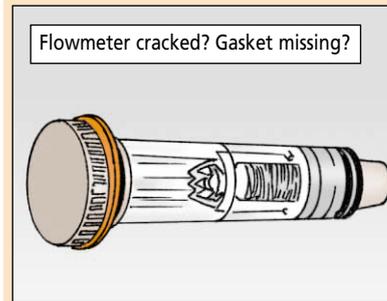
If your M8A1 has been locked in a cabinet for weeks, the M43A1 detector probably won't reach the green zone on its meter in 15 minutes during PMCS. Give it longer to run. Sometimes the M43A1 just has to run until the cell assembly clears itself, which may take longer than 15 minutes.



If the M8A1 has been stored for a long period, also check that the binding posts can be depressed. Corrosion could have frozen them. Then you can't connect the detector to the alarm. Get frozen binding posts replaced.

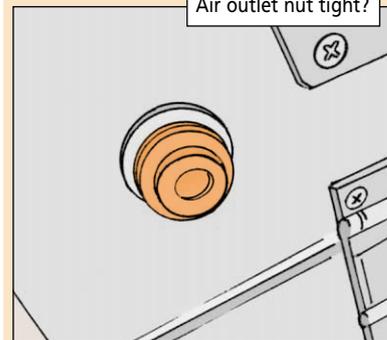


Look for cracks in the flowmeter and a missing gasket at the top of the flowmeter. That's Item 3 in the PMCS. If it's cracked, the flowmeter won't pass its test.

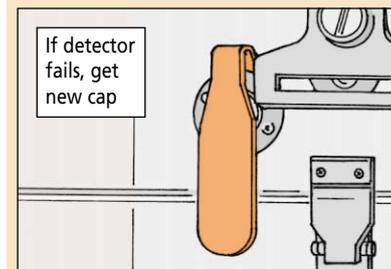


Remember your NBC NCO needs to install the air outlet filter if you're operating the M8A1 inside. Because of its radioactive source, the M8A1 puts out radioactive particles.

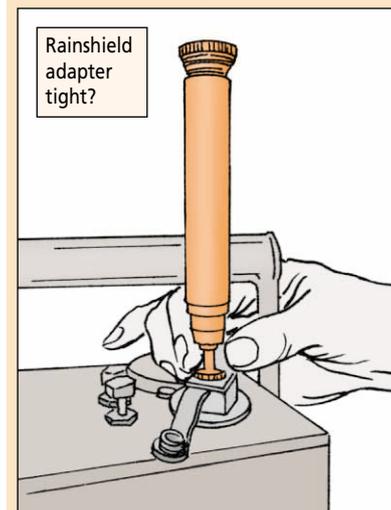
If the flowmeter is OK but the M43A1 still can't get the ball into the green zone, make sure the air outlet nut is tight and the case main seal, air filter plug seal, and air inlet seal are good. Turn the air outlet nut clockwise with your fingers until it's hand-tight. Report bad seals.



Still no luck? The air outlet cap may be leaking. Put a new cap on or seal the outlet with your finger (wear gloves to do that).



Still doesn't pass? Check that the rainshield adapter is tight. If all that doesn't fix the problem, it's time for that M8A1 to go to support.



Remember, **never** run the M43A1 longer than 30 seconds with the air outlet sealed. Otherwise, heat destroys its circuitry.



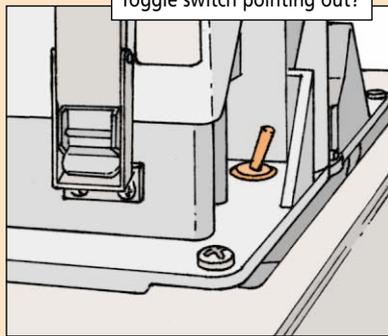
Another never is to **never** leave a test paddle in longer than two minutes and never try more than two paddles. If you ignore those rules, the detector cell is contaminated and it takes a l-o-n-g time to purge it.

Never leave paddle in longer than 2 minutes



If the M43A1 doesn't respond to tests, its toggle switch may be turned off. The switch should point out, away from the pump module. Flip it out if necessary.

Toggle switch pointing out?

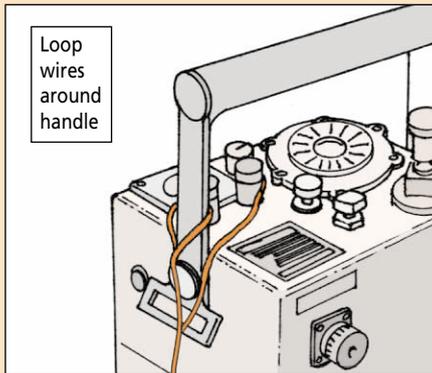


In the Field

When you connect the detector to the alarm, tie off nine inches of wire at the loop on the side of the M43A1. If the loop is missing, wrap the wire around the handle. That keeps the wire from being jerked out if someone trips on it.

Warn your unit before you test the alarm. Otherwise, you could come back to your unit and find everyone dressed in chemical gear...and saying unkind things about you.

Loop wires around handle



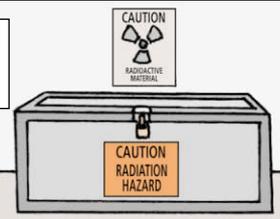
OOPS! I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU GUYS I WAS TESTING.

Radiation Rules

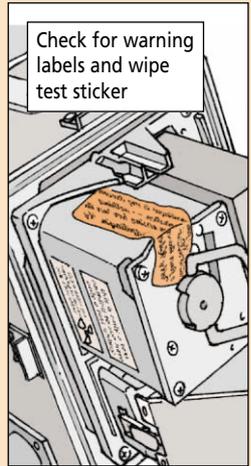
BECAUSE THE M43A1 HAS A **RADIOACTIVE SOURCE**, YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RADIATION RULES...

- Keep the M43A1 locked in a metal cabinet or caged area with a radioactive caution sticker posted on the door. If you don't have a sticker, see your safety officer.
- Have the M43A1 wipe tested for radiation leaks by support every 12 months. Your M43A1 detector will be non-mission capable if there's not a record of a current wipe test. And the detector cell must have radiation warning labels stuck to it, as well as a sticker showing when it was wipe tested.
- Once the outlet filter is clogged or damaged, it must be placed in a sealed plastic bag and given to your local RPO. See Para 4-13 in the M8A1's TM 3-6665-312-12&P for details.

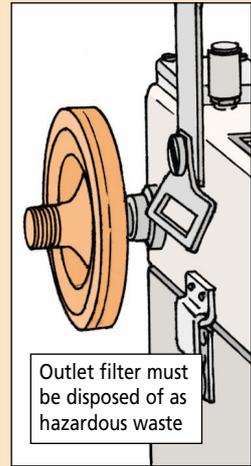
Store in locked cabinet with warning label



Check for warning labels and wipe test sticker



Outlet filter must be disposed of as hazardous waste



IF YOU **DON'T** FOLLOW THESE RULES, YOU COULD FIND YOURSELF IN **HOT WATER** WITH ALL SORTS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

