

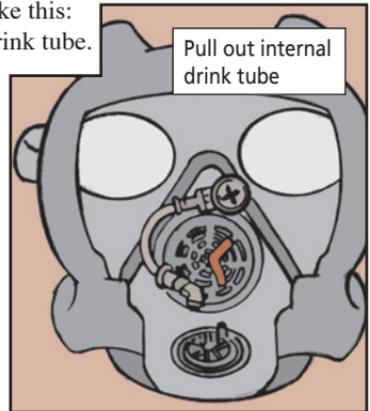
CHECK FOR DRINK SYSTEM BLOCKAGE



Some M45 masks have been found to have a blockage in their outlet valve housings that prevents a soldier from getting water through the drink tube.

The blockage doesn't hurt the mask's ability to protect, but a soldier won't last long without water in extreme heat. So immediately, all NBC NCOs should have their unit check their M45 masks for blockage like this:

- Remove the outlet valve cover and external drink tube.
- Remove the internal drink tube and blow into the tube. If air goes through the tube, reinstall it on the mask. If air won't go through the tube, you need a new internal drink tube, NSN 4240-01-441-0557. Put it on the mask and continue the test.
- Check the outlet valve housing drink system by blowing through the internal drink tube. Use your finger to see if air is passing through. If air is, reinstall the external drink tube and the outlet valve cover. Clean and sanitize the mask and continue to use it.



If air isn't passing through, the drinking system is blocked. For repair or replacement of the mask, contact TACOM's Doug Vanatta at DSN 793-3053/(309) 782-3053 or email: vanattad@ria.army.mil

After you've inspected all your masks, report the inspection to your MACOM commander and carbon copy Vanatta at the address above. Include your unit's name, serial numbers of M45s that passed the inspection, status of repairs to M45s that didn't pass, and a POC with phone number and email address.

If you need help with the inspection, contact your local TACOM logistics assistance representative or state surface maintenance manager.

Whenever you do the PATS test on the M45, be sure to have the soldier first clear the drink system like it says on WP 0007 00-5 of the PATS's TM 3-4240-349-12&P. That will spot any blockages in the drink system.

For more info, see TACOM ground precautionary message 06-004.