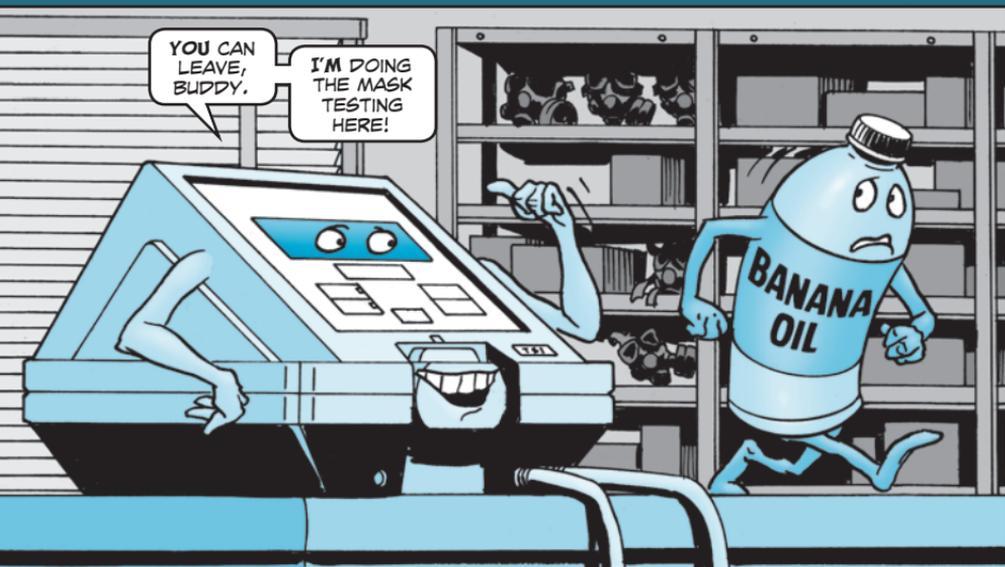


# PATS Preferred for Testing



Dear Half-Mast,

TM 3-4230-346-23&P (Aug 10) gives detailed instructions on using banana oil (N-Amyl acetate) to do fit testing of the M40-series mask. But TACOM maintenance advisory message 03-02 (Jan 03) said to stop using banana oil. What's the scoop?

J.S.

Dear Mr. J.S.,

Use banana oil only when you don't have a working M41 PATS (protection assessment test system) to test either the M40 or M42 masks. Every company or battery should have a PATS. So if yours is being calibrated or needs repair, see if you can borrow one from your next-door CBRN specialist. PATS ensures a mask fits properly.

Don't forget your PATS needs to be calibrated every 18 months by TMDE if it's to stay accurate. If it's not accurate, it can flunk good masks. TMDE completely disassembles a PATS, cleans it, checks out all its components and accessories, repairs it if necessary, and then calibrates it.

If you're not sure when your PATS was last calibrated, check its calibration sticker. If it's missing the sticker, your TMDE should know when it was calibrated.

*Half-Mast*