

# FireHawk® M7 Responder® Air Mask Frequently Asked Questions



## ***What's the difference between the FireHawk M7 Air Mask and the FireHawk M7 Responder Air Mask?***

MSA's FireHawk M7 Responder Air Mask is uniquely versatile protection that can be quickly transformed into an air-purifying respirator (APR) or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR). You can change respirator modes as your job changes direction from first response and rescue to scene management and remediation activities. The air mask version using the Ultra Elite® Facepiece has the additional benefit of a built-in hydration system.

## ***Why would we choose to buy the FireHawk M7 Responder Air Mask instead of the FireHawk M7 Air Mask?***

The FireHawk M7 Responder Air Mask offers additional modes of respiratory protection that you may use in non-firefighting situations. This version also eliminates the need for and the costs of buying separate APRs. In addition, switching from one mode to another is simple and safe, allowing you to concentrate on the hazards at hand.

## ***Is the product NIOSH-approved for SCBA, APR and PAPR?***

Yes. Approvals are available (and were obtained) ONLY for each component (SCBA, APR and PAPR) as an independent respirator. Although the APR, PAPR and SCBA have been evaluated for seamless convertibility in a contaminated environment, there is currently no standard for which to seek this type of system approval. Users are required to convert among modes in an uncontaminated environment. Please see user's instructions for specific approval information and limitations.

## ***Can I upgrade a FireHawk M7 Air Mask to the FireHawk M7 Responder Air Mask?***

Currently, you cannot upgrade your FireHawk M7 Air Mask.

## ***What is included in the APR or PAPR kit on the ATO matrix?***

APR kit consists of breathing tube (choice of 18" or 22") and APR neck strap. PAPR kit contains a C420 motor blower, one LiSO2 battery, air-flow indicator, 6" breathing tube, and waist belt.

**FireHAWK® M7**  
**RESPONDER®**  
**Air Mask**



**What are the benefits of using a PAPR?**

In non-IDLH environments, PAPRs are ideal for extended-wear times instead of APRs, as PAPRs reduce user fatigue by virtually eliminating breathing resistance. In addition, unlike standard APR respirators, PAPRs create a cooling effect that keeps facepieces from fogging and users more comfortable.

**Is the ExtendAire™ System available?**

Yes. The ExtendAire I System is available for order.

**Can PAPRs be used to enter an IDLH environment?**

No, PAPRs are air-purifying respirators and are not approved for use in IDLH Environments. Only SCBA are approved for use in IDLH environments.

**Are PAPRs positive-pressure respirators?**

Yes. The continuous flow of filtered ambient air allows PAPRs to maintain slight positive pressure. However, PAPRs are NOT pressure-demand positive-pressure systems as are SCBA.

**What battery options are available for the FireHawk M7 Responder PAPR?**

The LiSO<sub>2</sub> battery is a one-time-use battery with a 10-year shelf life; it is NIOSH-approved with the C420 motor-blower used with this PAPR. An NiMH rechargeable battery with four-hour run time is also available.

**What APF (assigned protection factor) can be used with the FireHawk M7 Responder PAPR?**

OSHA assigns a 1,000 APF to PAPRs with a tight-fitting facepiece such as this one.

Note: This bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While uses and performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances shall the products be used by untrained or unqualified individuals and not until the product instructions including any warnings or cautions provided have been thoroughly read and understood. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning proper use and care of these products.



**MSA – The Safety Company**  
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066 USA  
Phone 724-776-8600  
[www.MSAFire.com](http://www.MSAFire.com)

**U.S. Customer Service Center**  
Phone 1-877-MSA-FIRE  
Fax 1-877-672-3930

**MSA Canada**  
Phone 1-877-MSA-FIRE  
Fax 1-800-967-0398

**MSA Mexico**  
Phone 1-877-672-3473  
Fax 011 52 55 5359 4330

**MSA International**  
Phone 724-776-8626  
Toll Free 1-800-672-7777  
Fax 724-741-1559  
Email [msa.international@msasafety.com](mailto:msa.international@msasafety.com)