

SURVIVAIR SAFETY NOTICE

Panther® SCBA second stage regulator cover for HUD units.
November, 2003

To all Survivair Panther SCBA with HUD Users:

Survivair has identified a problem that causes the First Breath On (FBO) to activate (start air flow) too easily on Panther second stage regulators with HUD. Survivair has determined that the amount of negative pressure required to activate the FBO is too low and that the FBO may sometimes activate before the regulator is inserted into the facepiece. This may result in loss of air from the SCBA prior to entry based upon the following sequence of events:

1. The cylinder valve is open, and the system is pressurized.
2. The FBO has been fully depressed to shut off the regulator.
3. The regulator has not yet been inserted into the facepiece.
4. The FBO were to activate accidentally.

These regulators were sold as a factory installed item under the part number 968801. They were also sold as a component part in the following Upgrade Kits: 969020, 969022, 969045, 969048, 969049, 969052, 969053, 969054, 969055, 969056, 969057, 969058, 969059, and 969064.

This problem has been traced to a molding and secondary machining operation during the manufacturing process. The problem may affect any HUD style Panther second stage regulators manufactured from May 2003 to September 2003 only. Non-HUD style Cougar or Puma second stage regulators are not affected by this Notice.

Cover assemblies manufactured after September 2003 can be identified by either an "M" stamped into the cover under the manual override button, or by a small star molded onto the external surface of the cover between the First Breath On button and the Bypass Knob.

If you, or your department, have purchased an SCBA within this time frame, please immediately contact your local Survivair Warranty Service Center for testing and/or cover replacement. Please immediately contact your local Survivair Warranty Service Center for testing and/or cover replacement. Testing for low First Breath On (FBO) activation and cover replacement, if necessary, will be provided by Survivair free of charge.



If it becomes necessary to use the Panther SCBA with HUD before the inspection has been conducted, it is critical that the cylinder valve must remain closed until just before the second stage regulator is attached to the facepiece. Always check the HUD pressure gauge before entry into a fire or hazardous atmosphere to ensure that it indicates a full cylinder. Entry into a fire or hazardous atmosphere with less than a full cylinder may critically reduce service time, which could result in serious personal injury or death.

We are conducting this inspection and, if necessary, retrofit, in the interest of your safety. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jill Gerow'.

Jill Gerow
Manager, Customer Service
Survivair Customer Service (888) 277-7222

Attachments:
Survivair Warranty Service Center list
F/N: FBO User on LH