

# Filter Self-Rescue Device W-65



## Health Hazard Information Card HH-12

The W-65 is a small filter-type device designed to provide respiratory protection against carbon monoxide (CO) gas. CO can result and may build up to dangerous levels as a result of combustion (for example: fires, explosions) underground. The chemical within the device transforms deadly carbon monoxide gas into less harmful carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

The W-65 is presently the only filter self-rescue device approved for use in metal/nonmetal mines.

The self rescuer **will not**:

- ✗ provide oxygen
- ✗ offer protection against any gases except CO

The self rescuer will:

- ✗ generate heat in the presence of CO
- ✓ become uncomfortable, even painful to the wearer
- ✓ save the wearer's life

**Mine operators** are required to:

- » provide a self-rescue device for each worker underground
- » train workers in the use of the devices
- » set up and carry out a maintenance program

\* *The mention of specific brands and models is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by MSHA*

**A maintenance program** needs to provide for:

- » periodic weighing using a balance or scales that weigh in grams
- » visual inspections of the entire W-65 to detect any sign that leakage has occurred
- » an individual record for each device
- » immediate removal of inadequate devices from service
- » immediate replacement of discarded devices

**Wearers** of the W-65 need to:

- » be fully trained in all emergency procedures
- » visually examine the device before going underground
- » be aware of hazards and adverse health effects
- » understand the limitations of the device
- » use the device as a means of ESCAPE only

So that it will be readily accessible in case of an emergency, the W-65 must be:

- » carried on the worker, or
- » attached to the mobile equipment the worker is operating, or
- » located within 25 feet of the worker



**REMEMBER:** The W-65 is designed to protect the miner during **ESCAPE**. It will only provide that protection if it is:

- » readily available,
- » properly maintained, and
- » used appropriately

For more details and information on this device, see MSHA IG 2 - "MSA W-65 Filter Self-Rescuer". You may order this publication by contacting:

National Mine Health and Safety Academy

Instructional Materials Department

1301 Airport Road

Beaver, West Virginia 25813-9426

**Telephone:** 304-256-3257

**Fax:** 304-256-3368

**E-mail:** MSHADistributionCenter@msha.gov

For additional information and assistance, contact:

- ✓ Your local MSHA office
- ✓ **Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health Office** –  
Arlington, Virginia  
202-693-9630
- ✓ **Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center** –  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
412-386-6901