



## Survival Gas Masks

with Roman Zrazhevskiy of [www.MiraSafety.com](http://www.MiraSafety.com)

### Very REAL Gas Mask Threats

Practical gas mask threats include:

- Debris from nuclear power plants.
- Debris from building collapses (9/11).
- Dirty bombs (radioactive infused bombs).
- Hazardous transport accidents.
- Pandemics.
- Civil unrest (tear gas, pepper spray)
- Wildfires and other chemical smoke.
- Certain filters on the market can convert carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide. Find one that is threaded for 40mm NATO.

### The 3 Biggest Gas Mask Myths

People have many misconceptions about gas masks. Not all gas masks are the same!

- Just having a gas mask is not enough. It doesn't protect skin or extremities.
- Foreign military surplus masks will NOT necessarily protect you. It depends on how they are stored. There are specific storage conditions to maintain mask integrity.
- Filters and masks DO expire, especially filter. Oxygen degrades the filters over time.

### The WORST Features of Commercial Masks

Look out for these issues:

- P3 or P100 masks. These don't have activated carbon and for particles only.
- Military surplus masks and filters. You don't know how they've been stored.
- Avoid surplus RUSSIAN filters at all costs. They have asbestos in them. Degradation over time could cause you to breathe it.
- Avoid Chinese gas masks.

- Do not buy masks with silicon rubber seals. You want BUTYL rubber for chemical/biological/radiological (CBR).

### Features To Look For In A Gas Mask

Look for these items when shopping:

- Buy a gas mask that actually fits your face.
- Perform a negative pressure test on it.
- Make sure the mask is properly certified.
- Butyl rubber and EPDM are best.
- Get one compatible with hydration systems.
- A speech diaphragm or voice emitter is useful for communication in emergencies.
- Buy a mask used by professionals and warfighters (a government agency).
- Look for a panoramic visor unless you need compatibility with night vision/binoculars.
- You want NATO threading in a gas mask, not the Eastern Europe threading. Look for compatibility with 40mm NATO filters.
- You'll want anti-fogging features, too.

### Using Your Gas Mask

Consider the following for living in a gas mask:

- You need a beard trimmer with your mask if you have a beard.
- Gas masks get HOT, especially when you exert yourself. Stay hydrated and make sure your mask has a hydration system.
- TRAIN with your mask. The more you train, the easier it will be to use.
- Learn to fire your weapons while wearing the mask.

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*Prepare. Train. Survive.*