CLAIMS:

1. A breathing assistance apparatus configured to deliver a flow of pressurised breathing gases to a user, the breathing assistance apparatus comprising:

a main body, the main body comprising an upper housing and a lower housing configured to be secured together, the lower housing comprising an air inlet;

a blower positioned within the main body, the blower configured to draw ambient air into the breathing assistance apparatus through the air inlet and generate the flow of pressurised breathing gases;

a humidification compartment defined within the main body, at least a portion of the humidification compartment defined by at least one generally vertical inner wall, and the humidification compartment adapted to removably receive at least a portion of a humidification chamber, the humidification chamber configured to contain a volume of liquid such that the flow of pressurised breathing gases can pass over the volume of liquid en route to the user to increase a humidity of the flow of pressurised breathing gases;

a heater plate supported by the main body, the heater plate being positioned within the humidification compartment, the humidification chamber configured to rest on the heater plate to heat the volume of liquid within the humidification chamber; and

a liquid containment compartment being interposed between the blower and the humidification compartment, within the main body, to inhibit liquid infiltration from the humidification chamber or the humidification compartment toward the blower, the liquid containment compartment being separated from the humidification compartment by the generally vertical inner wall, the liquid containment compartment providing a gas flow path between the blower and a humidification compartment inlet, the liquid containment compartment comprising:

a first opening extending through the generally vertical inner wall, the first opening defining the humidification compartment inlet and an outlet for gases flow out of the liquid containment compartment; and

a second opening that defines an inlet for gases flow into the liquid containment compartment from the blower, the second opening spanning a vertical distance, the first opening and the second opening of the liquid containment compartment being spatially offset from each other in at least two orthogonal directions.

2. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first opening and the second opening of the liquid containment compartment are spatially offset from each other in two orthogonal horizontal directions and an orthogonal vertical direction.

3. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein no portion of the first opening is vertically aligned with the second opening.

4. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein no portion of the first opening is horizontally aligned with the second opening.

5. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 4, the main body comprising:

a ridge, the ridge matching a configuration of the generally vertical inner wall such that the ridge and the generally vertical inner wall abut each other when the main body is assembled, the ridge comprising a groove; and

a seal between the ridge and the generally vertical inner wall, the seal configured to be provided within the groove.

6. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 5, a bottom of the lower housing enclosed by a further cover.

7. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 6, the air inlet positioned at a side wall of the lower housing adjacent a bottom of the lower housing.

8. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 7, the upper housing comprising an air outlet configured to connect to a conduit, the conduit in fluid communication with the humidification compartment and configured to connect to a breathing mask to deliver the flow of pressurised breathing gases to the user.

9. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 8, the air outlet positioned at a side wall of the upper housing adjacent a top of the upper housing.

10. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 9, the main body further comprising a lid configured to close the humidification compartment.

11. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 10, further comprising the humidification chamber.

12. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 11, the humidification chamber comprising an inlet aperture and an outlet aperture, wherein respective axes of the inlet aperture and the outlet aperture are parallel.

13. The breathing apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein a lowermost portion of the first opening and a lowermost portion of the second opening are vertically higher than a lowermost portion of a lower surface of the liquid containment compartment.

14. A breathing assistance apparatus configured to deliver a flow of pressurised breathing gases to a user, the breathing assistance apparatus comprising:

a main body comprising an air inlet;

a blower positioned within the main body, the blower configured to draw ambient air into the breathing assistance apparatus through the air inlet and generate the flow of pressurised breathing gases;

a humidification compartment defined within the main body, at least a portion of the humidification compartment defined by at least one generally vertical inner wall, and the humidification compartment adapted to removably receive at least a portion of a humidification chamber, the humidification chamber configured to contain a volume of liquid such that the flow of pressurised breathing gases can pass over the volume of liquid en route to the user to increase a humidity of the flow of pressurised breathing gases;

a heater plate supported by the main body, the heater plate being positioned within the humidification compartment, the humidification chamber configured to rest on the heater plate to heat the volume of liquid within the humidification chamber; and

a liquid containment compartment being interposed between the blower and the humidification compartment, within the main body, to inhibit liquid infiltration from the humidification chamber or the humidification compartment toward the blower, the liquid containment compartment being separated from the humidification compartment by the generally vertical inner wall, the liquid containment compartment providing a gas flow path between the blower and a humidification compartment inlet, the liquid containment compartment comprising:

a first opening extending through the generally vertical inner wall, the first opening defining the humidification compartment inlet and an outlet for gases flow out of the liquid containment compartment; and

a second opening that defines an inlet for gases flow into the liquid containment compartment from the blower, the second opening spanning a vertical distance, the first opening and the second opening of the liquid containment compartment being spatially offset from each other in at least two orthogonal directions; and

a lower surface, wherein the lower surface is not substantially flat.

15. The breathing apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first opening and the second opening of the liquid containment compartment are spatially offset from each other in two orthogonal horizontal directions and an orthogonal vertical direction.

16. The breathing apparatus of claim 14 or 15, wherein the main body further comprises an upper housing and a lower housing configured to be secured together, the air inlet being located on the lower housing.

17. The breathing apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein a lowermost portion of the second opening is vertically higher than a lowermost portion of the lower surface of the liquid containment compartment.

18. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein no portion of the first opening is vertically aligned with the second opening.

19. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 14 or 18, wherein no portion of the first opening is horizontally aligned with the second opening.

20. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 19, the main body comprising:

a ridge, the ridge matching a configuration of the generally vertical inner wall such that the ridge and the generally vertical inner wall abut each other when the main body is assembled, the ridge comprising a groove; and

a seal between the ridge and the generally vertical inner wall, the seal configured to be provided within the groove.

21. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 20, a bottom of the lower housing enclosed by a further cover.

22. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 21, the air inlet positioned at a side wall of the lower housing adjacent a bottom of the lower housing.

23. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 22, the upper housing comprising an air outlet configured to connect to a conduit, the conduit in fluid communication with the humidification compartment and configured to connect to a breathing mask to deliver the flow of pressurised breathing gases to the user.

24. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 23, the air outlet positioned at a side wall of the upper housing adjacent a top of the upper housing.

25. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 24, the main body further comprising a lid configured to close the humidification compartment.

26. The breathing assistance apparatus of any one of claims 14 to 25, further comprising the humidification chamber.

27. The breathing assistance apparatus of claim 26, the humidification chamber comprising an inlet aperture and an outlet aperture, wherein respective axes of the inlet aperture and the outlet aperture are parallel.