



Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Fire Administration
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727



JUL 22 1994

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Sir or Madam:

This comment is in response to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) proposed rule, published in the May 24, Federal Register, which would replace existing Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulations with new public health regulations, while upgrading current testing requirements for particulate filters.

The USFA has observed an increasing number of advertisements which promote the use of respirators for use by the general public for use during escape from fire. I believe that, consistent with the intent of the proposed rule, wherein MSHA regulations will be replaced by public health regulations, it would be appropriate if NIOSH would consider researching the adequacy of these respirators to perform as advertised. I, therefore, request that NIOSH research this issue and, if necessary, develop appropriate criteria for the evaluation and use of these products.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If I can provide you with additional information regarding our concerns, please contact Robert T. McCarthy, Branch Chief, Fire Technical Programs, United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sincerely,
Carrye B. Brown
Carrye B. Brown
U.S. Fire Administrator

cc: Richard W. Metzler

AUG 8 1994