

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: kpravetz@vbgov.com
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To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 147 - Reevaluation of the NIOSH policy on emergency escape support breathing system or buddy-breather device used with open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus Comments

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Comments
Buddy breathing ports provide an additional survival tool for firefighters. As with everything we do there is considerable risk and the involved parties need to make a life or death decision with about 20% of the information. There are times when BBP can be used successfully to move with a fellow firefighter to an exit. There are times when it would be detrimental. We cannot take every situation and determine the likelihood of statistical success. Training is the key! By providing every possible survival tool the firefighter and rescuer will have another option. When used at the appropriate time they will save lives. Our department has experienced two successful buddy breathing events.

I support the effort to allow buddy breathing attachments on SCBA.