

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

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Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2010 3:27 PM
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

I would personally and organizationally like to advocate and endorse NIOSH reevaluating its current stance and policy on emergency escape support breathing systems or "Buddy breathing" devices utilized with open circuit self contained breathing apparatus.

Buddy breathing or escape support breathing systems have been and will continue to be a part of the firefighter's SCBA system to be utilized in that dire life threatening situations that we hope no one has to contend with, but we can be rest assured will somewhere unfortunately occur within the USA. These systems give the firefighter the opportunity to possibly overcome an adverse situation that may cause them harm in an IDLH environment. The systems have come a long way from the original models of SCBAs and are currently fully integrated into a majority of firefighter SCBAs from numerous vendors across the USA. The West County EMS and Fire Protection District's recent purchase and replacement of SCBAs included the "Buddy Breathing" emergency option with all employees trained and educated on its proper use and deployment.

This Item has grown to be a "Standard of Care" in the Fire Service and NIOSH should discontinue its practice of potentially de-certifying SCBA's that have this option incorporated into their design.