

Dragon, Karen E.

From: _____
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 12:34 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office
Subject: PAPR standard's

To whom it may my concern,

Presently my job with the City of Mesa Fire Department is in the development and research for equipment to be used in the event of a WMD incident. In the event of a chemical warfare agent discharge it has become increasing apparent that the operational times required to stabilize this type of event would far exceed SCBA time limit's. This has led us the PAPR system for first responder's. I have had the opportunity to evaluate many of the systems commercially available today.

The following are some of the weaknesses I have seen in these devices:

- Filter mounting- Practically all of the units mount the canister such that if it was to be used in a moist environment (decontamination shelter) water would readily enter the canister opening. All canisters should be mounted so that the air inlet faces directly downward to minimize water entry.
- Harness assembly- The harness should be designed so that the Blower unit is secure when donned to allow the operator to perform physical activities without the unit shifting. Present systems are extremely unstable and difficult to operate in due to the Blower unit constantly shifting. PAPR units should have at the least Web-style belt/shoulder straps.
- Accessory pocket's- The harness assemble should be designed such that no bags or pocket's are attached to the system. In decontamination units these items become buckets for water to accumulate in.

I have read your latest update on the purposed standard for PAPR's and found that many of my other concerns were addressed. Please consider these items for your final draft.

Thank-you
Rick Hoover
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