



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

June 28, 1976

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH
5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

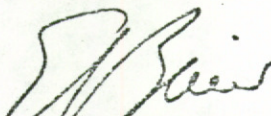
Mr. John S. Lloyd
City of Miami, Florida
Law Department
65 S. W. First Street
Miami, Florida 33130

Mr. Lloyd:

With reference to your letter of April 26, 1976, to Dr. Key, concerning possibly defective approved self-contained breathing apparatus, we regret very much that Miami firefighters may have been injured, possibly as a result of smoke inhalation which occurred while they were wearing MESA/NIOSH-approved demand-type self-contained breathing apparatus. As indicated in earlier correspondence, we have required the manufacturer to correct the deficiency you described.

We must object to your statement that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is responsible for testing and certifying all breathing apparatus used in the Fire Service. Actually, our responsibility is to assure that safe and efficient respiratory protective devices of all types are available for use anywhere under many circumstances in accordance with our recommendations. The Institute recommends certain types of devices for specific uses. We recommend, for example, positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus for firefighting. Demand-type self-contained breathing apparatus are not positive pressure devices, and are not recommended by us for use by firefighters.

If we can provide any further information to you or your Fire Service, please call upon us.


Edward J. Baier
Deputy Director