

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: mnewell@beverlyhills.org
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 1:20 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 request for the safety of fire personnel operating in IDLH atmospheres that NIOSH eliminate the 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing. The changes in technology have increased the efficiency and safety when using modern buddy breathing devices. The exposure to IDLH atmosphere is eliminated and allows for rescue options that other systems do not offer. NIOSH approval of a buddy breathing system will initiate NFPA testing procedures, training and operational use standards.