

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

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**From:** rodney.colbert@fairfaxcounty.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:06 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  
For the safety of all Emergency Response Personnel (ERP) NIOSH needs to eliminate the 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing. The numerous changes in technology have increased the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of using a buddy breathing device. ERP work in an Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment and are subjected to emergencies themselves. The use of a buddy breathing device provides an option to rescue a ERP which prevents exposure of the ERP to the IDLH thereby enhancing chances of survivability and rescue not afforded by other rescue systems. NIOSH approval of a buddy breathing system will initiate NFPA testing procedures, training and operational use standards which will provide even greater safety for all personnel who use the equipment.