

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

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Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 12:12 AM
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 and my department administration feel the NIOSH 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing should be eliminated. Upgrades in technology such as dedicated buddy breathing connections, larger volume air bottles and RIC UAC fittings have eliminated the risks buddy breathing posed in the past.

Buddy breathing is now a viable and safe practice for use in emergency situations.