



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

January 21, 2011

John Szalajda, Policy and Development Branch Chief
National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
NIOSH Mailstop C-34
Robert A. Taft Lab
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Mr. Szalajda,

I am writing in support of NIOSH's review of the policy to allow "buddy breathing" components on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

As Fire Chief of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department overseeing 854 men and women using this equipment, I can attest to its effectiveness. The new quick-connect components no longer require removal of face pieces to accomplish the task of buddy breathing, which greatly enhances firefighter safety as well as their ability to rescue a trapped or incapacitated firefighter.

With seven years of experience behind us using this equipment without issue or any adverse affects, I would strongly encourage you to consider revising your current policy to allow "buddy breathing" components on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Sincerely,

Javier Mainar
Fire Chief

cc: Jeff Carle, Assistant Fire Chief

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