

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: dwade@vbgov.com
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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

The Buddy Breathing Port is an add-on we have had placed on our Survivair/Sperion/Honeywell Panther SCBAs. It has proven very effective in saving the life, or removing our endangered members from harm. The training for its use is imperative and we have an excellent program that begins in rookie academy and continues through Company In-service and In-station training.

As with any tool in the toolbox there are limitations that must be learned and taught. The benefits to firefighter safety outweigh these limitations, and should not be overruled by the fear of legal ramifications and responsibility.

Make it a standard item in our arsenal and the manufacturers will move forward with research and development to make the system as humanly safe as possible.

You must take the lead and get them moving through accurate and intensive standard setting. The firefighting profession is dangerous enough and anything we can do to further protect and enhance the chance of survivability of our member during an unforeseen catastrophic event should be accomplished.