

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

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Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 3:09 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 am a Firefighter with over 20 years of experience in the fire service including 17 as a career firefighter. I have done some training in the "art" of buddy breathing, and it is an extremely difficult task to perform and is extremely dangerous. I feel that in this day and age it is much safer for all involved if there is a universal RIT connection on every SCBA and each SCBA have a connection hose, in a pouch on the waist belt, so that one can share air thru the RIT connection with another is the way to go. Buddy breathing should be avoided at all costs, if members do not practice this often so they are very proficient in it then we are setting up for a disaster.