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

From: rranay@vbgov.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 1:21 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
If anyone has ever taken a dive class in USA, they all know that a backup breathing is highly recommended. Why should it be any different from they SCBA's we currently utilize? There may be several air monitoring gauges/warning devices on our SCBA's that warn us of low air. If any of those fail there is no backup for air such as the "buddy breather" devices. I always believe in the "Plan B" principle. I have been a professional firefighter for over 12 years. I have always developed an alternative plan for the emergencies that we respond to.

In your reevaluation of the NIOSH policy regarding this subject, please do not remove it from the requirements for SCBA's. I know of one structural fire event in our city that this buddy breather device was utilized and both firefighters survived the incident without personal injury.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Capt Ron Ranay