

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

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**From:** jharriso@fire.lacounty.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 12:21 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**

Our last 3 generations of S.C.B.A. have been designed with a provision for variations of "buddy breathing" It has become an expected safety option for our personnel operating in the IDLH atmosphere. For the added safety of our personnel NIOSH should eliminate the 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing and recognize what is already in place. The changes in technology have increased the efficiency and safety of using a buddy breathing device. Exposure to IDLH is eliminated and allows for rescue options that other systems do not offer. NIOSH approval of a buddy breathing system will initiate NFPA testing procedures, training and operational use standards.

Thank you for your consideration