

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

From: rduke@sterling-heights.net
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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

Name
Captain Rob Duke

Organization
Sterling Heights Fire Department

Email
rduke@sterling-heights.net

Address
41625 Ryan Road
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314
USA

Comments

For the safety of all emergency personnel NIOSH need to eliminate the 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing. The changes in technology have increased the efficiency and safety of using a buddy-breathing device. Exposure to an 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.