

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

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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

For the safety of all emergency personnel the City of Fairfax Fire Department recommends NIOSH 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 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. The elimination of the 1984 prohibition will ultimately increase the safety of fire fighter across the nation.