

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

From: dchapman@fire.lacounty.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 4:54 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

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 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.

For Rapid Intervention and for the safety of our personnel, there is no exception to having a EBBS included with all breathing apparatus.