

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

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**From:** Walker, William [WWalk@cccfd.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 2:28 AM  
**To:** NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)  
**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

I am writing to support a change in NIOSH policy, which will allow for the testing and certification of buddy-breathing equipment. This equipment, which firefighters may have to rely on in an emergency, should undergo the same testing and certification process provided to other breathing apparatus components. The testing and certification by NIOSH will provide an increased level of safety to firefighters, as well as, a greater degree of confidence in their equipment.

With the improved technology in buddy-breathing components, the current policy prohibiting certification is outdated. I urge you consider a policy change that will allow NIOSH to test and certify this very important respiratory protection equipment.

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