

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

From: RMoreno@fire.lacounty.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 5:00 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

I strongly believe NIOSH's 1984 prohibition on buddy breathing needs to be revisited and eliminated for firefighter safety. Technological changes have increased the efficiency and safety of using a buddy breathing device. Such a device provides significant value and aids firefighters in rescuing fellow firefighters. Furthermore, exposure to IDLH is minimized 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.
Rick Moreno, M.S.