

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

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**From:** tommy.erickson@mcesd8.org  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 4:56 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 understand that NIOSH is concerned with worker health and safety, and that approval of a buddy breathing system may not be done because NIOSH doesn't want a worker's breathing system compromised by utilizing it to supply another worker ( a downed firefighter, for instance), however, this is not a prudent position. In face, the opposite should be done. NIOSH should be enthusiastically approving these systems, as they have more potential for saving lives of workers than ever before. We have endured countless firefighter deaths due to loss of air supplies during fire fighting measures, and the innovative creativity and technological engineering that we have in the industry should be recognized for their contributions to firefighter safety, rather than be limited because of an old policy, that needs to be reviewed.

I have been a firefighter for more than 30 years and I cannot believe NIOSH would follow a traditional approach to this subject which may jeopardize our safety. Hopefully, I have gotten the wrong impression of what is happening.

Please give consideration to the manufacturers of the equipment that we depend on for our lives, and form a mutual partnership with them to improve conditions for us all, rather than rely on 25+ year technology and mindset to carry us into the future. NIOSH is well respected, this is a good time to maintain the public opinion that NIOSH is progressive and open.

Respectfully,  
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