

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

From: Rchisnel@VBgov.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 8:42 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 am encouraging your organization to sanction and allow the manufacturers to design/install buddy breathing ports on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. As a 35 year Fire Fighter, 27 years as a career Fire Fighter I know the importance of the BBP feature built into the unit. Fire Fighters spend many hours training with and using SCBA. With proper training we can be trusted to operate the SCBA as designed and if needed to properly utilize the Buddy Breathing component to save a life. I can recall many years back the need to Buddy Breath by placing the soft rubber hose from one face piece into your partner's by breaking the seal on his face piece and inserting your low pressure tube into their face piece. This procedure was only somewhat effective. When SCBA manufacturers incorporated the BBP into the SCBA, I felt this was a great improvement in the system. The ability to make the connection to another/partner without your partner exposing him/her self to smoke and contaminants is exactly what we Fire Fighters needed. Always strive to improve FF safety without sacrificing what Fire Fighters need to protect themselves.

Captain Raymond Chisnell
Virginia Beach Fire Department