

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

From: Delgado, Carmen L. [delgado.carmen@smfd.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:20 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Rice, Brian K.; anaya@prodigy.net; Henke, Kurt
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
Attachments: NIOSH_Docket 147_1.25.11.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached letter in regard to Docket 147- Reevaluation of the NIOSH policy on emergency escape support breathing system or "buddy-breather" device used with open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus.

Thank you,

Carmen Delgado



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Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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WILLIAM B. SPONABLE
Fire Chief

January 25, 2011

NIOSH Mailstop: C-34
Robert A. Taft Lab.
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

RE: Docket 147- Reevaluation of the NIOSH policy on emergency escape support breathing system or "buddy-breather" device used with open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD), I am writing in support of the proposed NIOSH policy change regarding "buddy-breathing" components with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

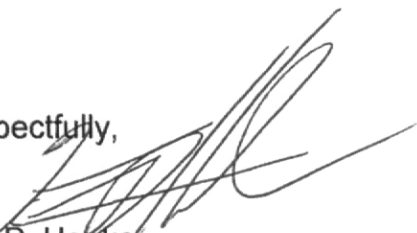
SMFD responds to over 75,000 incidents annually and employs approximately 500 uniformed personnel that are required to wear SCBA as part of their regular duties as firefighters.

Regional SMFD, along with four partner agencies in the Sacramento area, have collaborated, developed, and implemented Standard Operating Guidelines that govern fire incident response, as well as fire ground operations. One of the most important advances in this region has been to actively equip and train our firefighters on procedures to follow during a "Mayday" or missing / trapped firefighter incident. In 2010, SMFD conducted over 5,000 hours of hands-on RIC/Mayday drills.

Currently in the Sacramento region, over 1,400 firefighters are equipped with same SCBA and all have the "buddy-breathing" system. It is important that NIOSH update and change the current policy regarding the recognition of "buddy-breathing" on SCBA as the current policy dates back to July 1984 and does not reflect the changes that have taken place over the last 26 years.

In closing, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District strongly encourages the change to the NIOSH policy to support the use of "buddy-breathing" components on SCBA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt P. Henke', written over the word 'Respectfully'.

Kurt P. Henke
Deputy Chief of Operations
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