

Miller, Diane M.

From: Stephen T. Miles [smiles@vbgov.com]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2006 4:49 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office
Cc: Steven R. Cover; Castillo, Dawn N.
Subject: Docket Number NIOSH-063

Please include this email in your written comments for the stakeholders meeting.

We have had the extreme fortune to engage the expertise of the NIOSH investigators help our fire department in separate investigations that we did not have the expertise or resources to accomplish.

The results and lessons learned from the direct involvement by NIOSH is being felt industry wide. In our combined investigation of an oxygen cylinder fire and explosion, Tim Merinar and others helped to establish the sequence of events that lead to the event. This new domino of a plastic compression gasket is being taken seriously by the fire/rescue service and these changes will result directly in lives saved.

Les Board and Vance Kochenderfer (NPPTL) have been extremely helpful on two different investigations involving self contained breathing apparatus failures. This assistance is vital to the American fire service. The lessons learned by our department are already being heard across the country thanks to the professionals at NIOSH.

As the Battalion Chief of Health and Safety for the Va. Beach Fire Department, I want to say thank you very much to the fine professionals at NIOSH. We need to reinforce and assist in fire fighter safety at all levels, (local, volunteer, state and federal). This is a great example of the federal government being there for us and assisting us in making great strides in fire fighter safety.

I would suggest the continuation of the fire fighter fatality investigation team and even look at involving fire service representatives at different levels in the case reviews/investigations. I would be happy to assist in whatever capacity I could and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information,

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Miles
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STOP AT THE RED LIGHTS AND KNOW YOUR SCBA!

4/21/2006