



Photo courtesy of International Association of Firefighters

Join us in moving science to solutions for...

# Emergency Preparedness





Photo courtesy of International Association of Firefighters

The NIOSH Research to Practice (r2p) program seeks partners for improving workplace safety and health. The r2p program joins NIOSH researchers and outside partners throughout the research process—from identifying the problem to implementing effective solutions. Do you want to make a positive impact for workers? Contact the r2p program to find out how, working together, we can make an impact.

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## Partnerships to Protect Emergency Responders

*Partnership makes a difference . . . here is one example*

### ■ ■ ■ Challenge

Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians face many hazards on the job, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Effective personal protective equipment and strict safety standards are critical to ensure the health and safety of emergency responders.

### ■ ■ ■ Approach

Stakeholders from government, manufacturing and emergency response fields joined NIOSH to establish new respirator standards for CBRN hazards. They established performance requirements and identified concerns with the existing equipment development process, such as policy, manufacturing and personnel issues. This input allowed researchers to develop practical standards to protect workers from CBRN threats.

### ■ ■ ■ Impact

This group effort resulted in the first CBRN standards for respirators. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adopted the new standards for all equipment purchased by DHS grant funds. The National Fire Protection Association also endorsed these standards. Approximately 7% of all on-duty career firefighters had CBRN respirators available or on order by December 2004. Additionally, six major equipment manufacturers have received approvals, and sixteen retrofit kits have also been approved.



Here are just a few of the businesses, organizations, labor groups, and research centers that have partnered with NIOSH.

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology  
American Association of Poison Control Centers  
American Chemistry Council Diisocyanates Panel  
American College of Medical Toxicology  
American Industrial Hygiene Association  
American Medical Response  
American Society of Safety Engineers  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Center for Business and Public Policy –  
Georgetown University  
Commonwealth of PA Bureau of Deep Mine Safety  
Dynamic Systems  
Electric Power Research Institute  
EPA Office of Research and Development  
FEMCO  
Finnish Institute of Occupational Safety and Health  
General Electric Energy and Resource Systems  
General Motors United Auto Workers  
Highmark, Inc.  
Joy Mining Machinery  
Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Center for Health Statistics  
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey  
National Energy Technology Lab (DOE)  
National Institute of Environmental  
Health Sciences (NIEHS)

National Institute of Industrial Health  
National Institute of Mental Health  
National Institute of Occupational  
and Environmental Health  
National Institute on Aging  
NIEHS–National Toxicology Program  
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Employment Standards Administration –  
Office of Workers Compensation Program  
Phoenix Firefighter Department  
RM Wilson  
Sandia Corporation (DOE)  
Scag Power Equipment  
SIRTI  
SkyJack Inc.  
Springfield Pike Mine  
State of Alaska  
University of Connecticut  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Veterans Health Administration  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

► E-mail [nioshr2p@cdc.gov](mailto:nioshr2p@cdc.gov) to find out how you can add yourself to this list.  
**Join us in moving science to solutions!**

Safer • Healthier • People

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