ISRP 2000 abstract

Presenter/author	Title	Abstract
Dower, J. M. Senior research industrial hygienist, NIOSH, Div. of Resp. Disease Studies **Metzler**, R. W. Branch Chief, NIOSH, Div. of Resp. Disease Studies, and ISRP President	**NIOSH Respirator Standards Development Project for Certification of Respirators to Protect Emergency Responders from Terrorist Threats**	Government and military agencies worldwide are addressing respiratory protection for emergency response personnel, civilians, and soldiers against chemical and biological (C/B) agents used for terrorism. Numerous technical issues will be investigated related to employing traditional industrial respirators against C/B agents. In the USA, partnerships have been forged among the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the National Fire Protection Association, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command to jointly address respiratory protection issues and establish appropriate respirator certification standards. The focus of this effort is to develop appropriate performance, quality and reliability standards and test methods for respirator technologies used to protect emergency responders against chemical and biological agents and certain toxic industrial materials. Both air-purifying and supplied-air respirators are expected to be employed for respiratory protection against these agents. Issues associated with adapting respirators approved for hazardous industrial and mining environment protections to responder protection from terrorism agents will be discussed. This information is of interest to those involved in providing C/B respiratory protection equipment and comprehensive respiratory protection programs to protect response workers against C/B terrorist threats.