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POOR QUALITY PAGES

RESPIRATOR USERS WARNING

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NIOSH) WANTS TO ADVISE USERS OF SCOTT AIR PAK II/IIA AND PRESUR-PAK II/IIA SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS OF THE OCCURRENCES OF SPLIT OR PUNCTURED REGULATOR DIAPHRAGMS. NIOSH TESTS INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF SUCH DEFECTS SHOWED REDUCED RESPIRATORY PROTECTION ON DEMAND-MODE APPARATUS. THESE SAME TESTS ALSO SHOWED NO LOSS IN PROTECTION, BUT A LOSS IN SERVICE TIME WHEN IN THE PRESSURE DEMAND-MODE. NOTE: THE PRESSURE DEMAND UNIT IS NOT APPROVED WHILE IN THE DEMAND MODE; THE DEMAND MODE IS TO BE USED FOR DONNING PURPOSES ONLY.

NIOSH BEGAN THIS INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE RECENT DEATH OF THREE FIREFIGHTERS WHO WERE WEARING THIS TYPE OF RESPIRATOR, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THE DEATHS WERE DUE TO DAMAGED REGULATOR DIAPHRAGMS. A SAMPLING OF THE APPARATUS IN THE FIELD HAS SHOWN AT LEAST 10% OF THE UNITS EXAMINED HAVE RUPTURED OR PUNCTURED DIAPHRAGMS.

USERS SHOULD EXAMINE THEIR SCOTT APPARATUS FOR POSSIBLE DAMAGED DIAPHRAGMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. THE USER SHOULD CHECK THE DIAPHRAGM BEFORE EACH USE BY CLOSING BOTH THE MAIN LINE AND BYPASS VALVES AND BLOWING THROUGH THE REGULATOR OUTLET PORT. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN A SLIGHT POSITIVE PRESSURE IN THE REGULATOR. THE USER SHOULD CHECK THE REGULATOR DIAPHRAGM AFTER EACH USE AND DURING MONTHLY INSPECTIONS OF THE COMPLETE APPARATUS. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF FAILURE OCCURS DURING ASSEMBLY, STORAGE, OR USE OF THE RESPIRATOR REGULATOR. THEREFORE, EXTREME CAUSTION MUST BE EMPLOYED WHEN USING THE RESPIRATOR. IN CHECKING THE OPERATION OF THE RESPIRATOR, USERS ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO BLOCK THE FLOW OF AIR FROM THE REGULATOR WHEN THE BYPASS VALVE IS OPEN, BECAUSE SUBSTANTIAL OBSTRUCTION MAY RUPTURE OR DISLODGE THE DIAPHRAGM. IF THE USER OBSERVES A LOOSE OR DISLODGED REGULATOR COVER, THE COVER MUST BE REMOVED AND THE DIAPHRAGM INSPECTED BEFORE REASSEMBLY

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OF THE REGULATOR.

NIOSH HAS REQUESTED THE MANUFACTURER STOP ALL SALES OF THE RESPIRATOR PENDING DETERMINATION OF THE REASON FOR AND NECESSARY CORRECTIVE ACTION TO PREVENT DIAPHRAGM FAILURE. FOR FURTHER TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONTACT: MR. RICHARD RONK, NIOSH, 944 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505. PHONE: (~~304~~ 304) 599-7337.

ANTHONY ROBBINS, M.D.
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