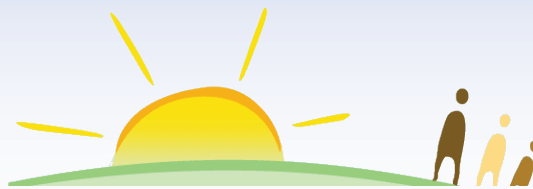


MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS



Healthy Legacy

Firefighter and Children Health Protection Act

The Minnesota Professional Firefighters and Healthy Legacy support a policy to protect children and firefighters from routine exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. *The Children and Firefighter Health Protection Act* will:

- Prohibit ten toxic flame retardants in children's products and upholstered furniture.
- Require that replacement chemicals are safe.
- Protect children and firefighters from the unnecessary and ineffective use of flame retardants in the home.

Why phase out these flame retardants?

Flame-retardants in upholstered furniture and children's products are not needed, ineffective, and no longer required by state regulators. Even though the state of Minnesota and federal regulators have no requirements to add flame-retardant chemicals to products, manufacturers nationwide have added them to upholstered furniture with polyurethane foam and to a variety of baby products such as changing table pads, toddler furniture and breastfeeding pillows. They did this to comply with a 1975 California flammability standard (TB 117), which required that the products resist an open flame.

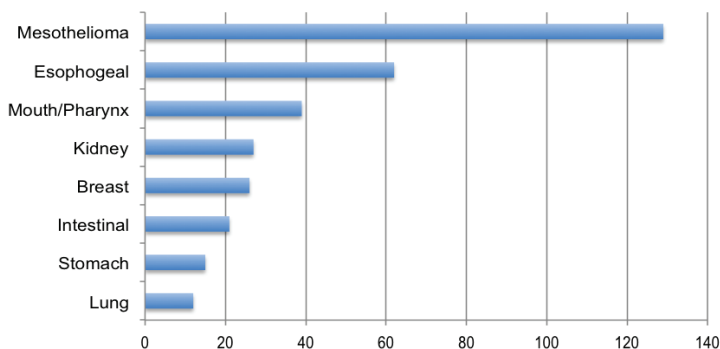
The good news is we no longer need to let California drive the safety of Minnesota products. In 2013 the California standard was changed to a "smolder test," which means that added flame-retardants are no longer needed for products sold in that state. Consequently, U.S. manufacturers are turning to flame-resistant cover fabrics and barrier technologies to assure product safety.

Flame retardant-free products already available

Leading manufacturers already offer flame-retardant-free upholstered furniture, including La-Z-Boy, Crate and Barrel, the Futon Shop and others.

Baby products without added flame retardants are also widely available, including products made by Naturepedic, MamaDoo Kids, Baby Bjorn, Britax, Carters and others.

Increased Firefighter Cancer Risk - NIOSH



Because there are no laws that prohibit the unnecessary addition of flame-retardants to furniture and baby products, this bill assures that products sold in Minnesota are free of the worst of these chemicals to protect the health of both firefighters and children.

Flame-retardants added to polyurethane foam products have been shown to be ineffective in fire protection. They generate excessive smoke and toxic chemical byproducts that expose firefighters to a toxic soup, including cancer-causing dioxins and furans.

To leave a healthy legacy, Minnesota needs safe products and safe ways to make them.

Health Risks From Exposure to Toxic Flame Retardants

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified flame retardants in the bodies of more than 90% of Americans. Exposure to these eight halogenated flame retardants and two chemical synergists is associated with numerous adverse health effects.

- Halogenated flame retardants are likely thyroid hormone disruptors and are linked to an array of adverse health effects including birth defects, cancer and adverse effects on reproduction, development, the immune system and learning and behavior.
- Some are persistent in the environment and degrade into carcinogenic dioxins and dioxin-like compounds.
- Chlorinated paraffins and antimony trioxide are persistent in the environment and are known or suspected carcinogens.
- Firefighters' work-related exposure to flame retardants puts them at higher risk for cancer and other serious health effects. For example, risk for mesothelioma in firefighters is over twice that of the general population and risk for esophageal cancer is 62% higher.

Flame retardants to be prohibited:

Deca-BDE	Decabromodiphenyl ether
HBCD	Hexabromocyclododecane
TCEP	Tris (2-chlorethyl) phosphate
TDCPP	Tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate
TBBPA	Tetrabromo bisphenol A
TBB	Tetrabromo benzoate
TBPH	Tetrabromo phthalate
TCPP	Tris (1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate
Chlorinated paraffins	
Antimony trioxide	



Flame-retardants migrate out of products into dust and into the human body. Because children play on the floor and put their fingers in their mouths, they ingest more flame-retardant chemicals. Studies have found 2-5 times higher levels of these chemicals in toddlers than in their parents.



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