



Healthy Legacy

MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS



Firefighter and Children Health Protection Act 2017

The Minnesota Professional Firefighters and Healthy Legacy support a policy to protect children and firefighters from routine exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals. In 2015 the Minnesota legislature passed *The Firefighter and Children Health Protection Act*, which prohibits the use of four toxic flame-retardants in upholstered furniture and children's products. *The Firefighter and Children Health Protection Act - 2017* will:

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

Flame retardant-free products already available

Fifty-seven leading manufacturers already offer flame-retardant-free upholstered furniture, including La-Z-Boy, Crate and Barrel, Room & Board, and Ashley Furniture.

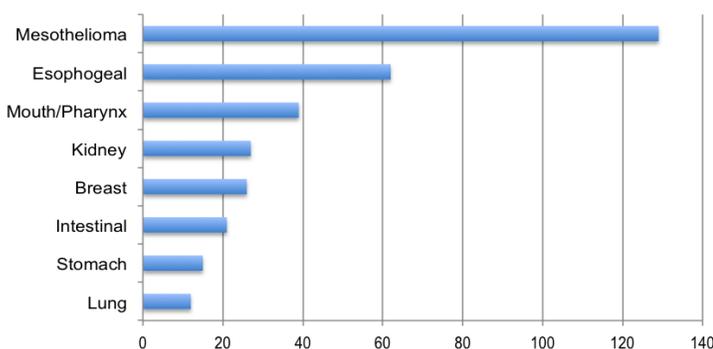
Baby products without added flame retardants are also widely available, including products made by Naturepedic, MamaDoo Kids, Baby Bjorn, Britax, Carters and others.

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.

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 flame-retardant chemicals is associated with numerous adverse health effects.

- Halogenated flame retardants are likely thyroid hormone disrupters 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 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 already prohibited:

Deca-BDE	Decabromodiphenyl ether
HBCD	Hexabromocyclododecane
TCEP	Tris (2-chlorethyl) phosphate
TDCPP	Tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate

Flame retardants prohibited in this bill:

TBBPA	Tetrabromo bisphenol A
TBB	Tetrabromo benzoate
TBPH	Tetrabromo phthalate
TCPP	Tris (1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate
TPP	Triphenyl phosphate
V6	Antiblaze® V6
IPTPP	Isopropylphenyl phosphate
Chlorinated paraffins	



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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