



JOINT STATEMENT ON FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS

*National Association of State Fire Marshals
United States Environmental Protection Agency*



Too often, fire safety, human health and environmental quality have been in conflict: asbestos, PCBs, underground storage tanks, lead solder and halons have served important fire protection goals but pose unacceptable threats to human health and the environment.

We now turn our attention to flame retardant chemicals that are in wide use in the home, workplace and most modes of transportation. These chemicals prevent countless fires, saving lives and protecting property. However, it is important to fully understand the hazards that these chemicals may pose. We will assess any identified risks, taking into account the fire safety benefits the chemicals provide.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) are encouraged by the scientific assessment of existing technologies and the new products now emerging in many markets. We are committed to innovation, good science, fire safety, and the protection of public health and the environment.

US EPA and NASFM seek to achieve high levels of fire safety and environmental quality and believe that these goals are complementary, essential and attainable. We will work together to achieve them.