

TONY STEFANI
CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT

KEITH ONISHI
VICE-PRESIDENT

ANITA PARATLEY
SECRETARY

JEFF MALONE
TREASURER



**SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS
CANCER PREVENTION
FOUNDATION**

1139 MISSION STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
TELEPHONE (415) 621-7103 • FAX (415) 621-1578
SFFCPF@YAHOO.COM

DIRECTORS
DAVID E. AMITUANAI
SHANE FRANCISCO
KAREN HEALD
GARY MASSETANI
KATE NOERR
SHERMAN TILLMAN
VICTOR WYRSCH

**SAN FRANCISCO
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 798
PRESIDENT:**
THOMAS P. O'CONNOR

CONSULTING PHYSICIANS
KIRSTEN GREENE, M.D.
MARSHALL L. STOLLER, M.D.
RAMÓN J. TERRAZAS, M.D.

RE: Proposals FS 170-15 and FS 171-15 to modify the 2015 International Building Code

Dear ICC Governmental Member Voting Representatives and Honorary Members,

I am a retired Captain from the San Francisco Fire Department with 28 years of service, and the Founder and Chairman of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation. My concern about the health impacts of flame retardants began after I was diagnosed with Transitional Cell Carcinoma - a rare cancer typically found in people exposed to toxic chemicals or working in the chemical industry. Flame retardants are used in a variety of products, often without providing a fire safety benefit.

The primary flame retardant chemicals used in foam plastic insulation are associated with human and ecological harm, including cancer, neurological and reproductive impairment, and disruption of the hormone system. Some are persistent and bioaccumulative. When heated or burned, insulation containing these chemicals produces larger quantities of toxic chemicals linked with cancer and other health harm.

My experience tells me that no one should be exposed to toxic flame retardants or their byproducts, yet pounds of these chemicals are used in everyday building products. This troubling reality impacts not only first-responders, but also workers throughout the product's lifecycle (manufacturers, installers, recyclers, and others).

For below-grade use of foam plastic insulation, where there is no access to oxygen or to a reasonable source of ignition, flame retardant chemicals are ineffective and unnecessary. The insulation is completely protected by concrete, masonry, soil, or other barrier, and does not present a fire hazard to building occupants or first-responders. FS 170-15 and FS 171-15 as modified by Public Comment would enable the safe below-grade use of insulation without harmful flame retardants.

Please consider this perspective when you have the opportunity to vote on FS 170-15 and FS 171-15 as modified by Public Comment, which reduce the burden of unnecessary toxic chemicals while maintaining fire safety.

Sincerely,
Tony Stefani
President, San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation
1139 Mission St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94103
415-621-7103