



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

## NEWS RELEASE

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# IAFF Urges NHTSA to Remove Toxic Flame Retardants from Cars

*Washington, DC* – In a collaborative effort to safeguard public health, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Green Science Policy Institute, and Consumer Reports have submitted a formal [petition](#) for rulemaking along with more than 46,000 consumer signatures to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urging NHTSA to update its outdated flammability standards for car interiors and child car seats.

With January recognized as Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month, it is important to emphasize the need to remove toxic chemicals from the fire environment, including vehicles, to reduce occupationally linked diseases.

“The IAFF supports efforts to remove flame retardants from cars because the fire environment is broader than buildings and homes,” said Racquel Cesnalis, IAFF Deputy Director, Occupational Health and Medicine. “Flame retardants do not prevent vehicle fires and are making the fire environment more toxic and increasing disease in fire fighters.”

The IAFF is one of 71 organizations that [sent a letter to NHTSA](#) urging the department to update its 1971 flammability standard for vehicle interiors and consider replacing the current flammability test with one that does not lead to the use of harmful chemicals in vehicles.

The nearly 54-year-old standard, which has demonstrated no safety benefits, requires car manufacturers to add cancer-causing and toxic flame-retardant chemicals to seat foam and other materials—including those in children’s car seats. This exposes vehicle occupants to harm, particularly infants and children whose brains and bodies are still developing.

NHTSA did not reply to the consumer petition or organizational letter; therefore, the formal rulemaking petition filed today will require the agency to decide within 120 days of receipt.