

In a Building Fire, Every Second Counts

1

Flame retardants reduce the probability that a heat or ignition source will initiate a growing, spreading fire.¹

2

Flame retardants increase the time available for escape or fire fighting.²

3

Most combustion by-products are toxic regardless of the presence of flame retardants.

4

Each fire averted means toxic and environmental hazards from that fire have been prevented.

5

Since the late 1970's – about the same time flame retardants became commonplace – civilian fire deaths and the number of fires started to decline and continue to do so. Nonetheless, in 2011 more than 1.3 million fires were reported in the U.S., resulting in 3,000 deaths and \$11.7 billion in property damage.³



References

¹"Toxic Hazards to Fire Fighters, Including Effects of Fire Retardants, During Fires & Post-Fire Investigation Activities," Prof. Purser, Hartford Environmental Research, 2009

²"Fire Hazard Comparison of Fire-Retarded & Non-Fire Retarded Products," Vytenis Babrauskas, et.al., July 1988

³"Fire Loss in the United States During 2011," Michael J. Karter, Jr., National Fire Protection Association, September 2012

The use of flame retardants in foam plastic insulation should not be eliminated.

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