



January 30, 2009

Dr. William Grosshandler
Deputy Director, Building and Fire Research Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Building 226, Room B216
100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8650

Dear Dr. Grosshandler:

Over the past several months, you have had conversations with the staffs of both the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) on the subject of the health effects to fire fighters of flame retardants (FRs) in the aftermath of a fire, and in exploring alternative fire retardant options. As you know, this is a complex issue that concerns both of our organizations greatly. We are committed to working through the complexities jointly, with your help.

We very much appreciate your offer to have NIST serve as an organizer and neutral host of a scientific workshop on this topic. We ask that NIST convene an initial meeting with representatives of our three organizations in order to discuss issues such as the objectives of the workshop, which organizations should be involved, agenda topics, when and where should the workshop be held, and budget requirements. This initial meeting would also provide us with an opportunity to share what each of our respective organizations sees as its role in addressing this problem.

For the IAFF, Rich Duffy, Assistant to the General President for Health, Safety & Medicine, will be taking the lead on this issue. For NASFM, Vice President David Foreman of Illinois will take the lead, with assistance from Karen Suhr of our Washington, D.C., staff.

Please confirm that we can move forward to address this crucial issue of fire fighter health and safety with NIST's assistance. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold A. Schaitberger".

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President
International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO, CLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan R. Shuman".

Alan R. Shuman
President
National Association of State Fire Marshals