

# San Francisco Fire Department

My name is Matthew Alba and I am a firefighter, Battalion Chief of Health, Safety, & Wellness. I am very aware of toxic chemicals that I encounter on the fire ground, and given what I have learned about my own chemical body burden, which indicates your body carries the residue from your exposure to flame retardants on the fire ground , I strongly support regulations that will make fire fighting safer.

Every home is full of electronic devices which use flame retardants. Flame retardants in these devices are unnecessary, and when electronic devices burn, they add to the dangers fire fighters face when deployed to structural fires.

I strongly support, as a representative of the San Francisco Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation, eliminating the unnecessary use of halogen and organophosphate flame retardants in electronics. Many are carcinogens and as we know, firefighters have elevated levels of some cancers.

Fire fighters are on the line to save lives and we ask that regulations are in place to protect us as well.

Respectfully,  
Matthew Alba