

Resolution No. 27

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Occupational Health & Safety

Re: Support for Discontinuing the Use of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) for Firefighter Training

1 WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of
2 firefighter deaths due to exposures in the course of
3 duty and every measure should be taken to reduce
4 unnecessary exposure to known cancer causing toxic
5 chemicals; and

6 WHEREAS, on August 7, 2019 the study of
7 firefighters' and instructors' absorption of PAHs and
8 benzene during training fires was published in the
9 International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental
10 Health; and

11 WHEREAS, the study proved our members are
12 being exposed to high levels of PAHs and benzines
13 in container training fires; and

14 WHEREAS, burning oriented strand board
15 (OSB) was identified by the study as the leading
16 cause of elevated levels of PAHs and benzene in
17 firefighter's urine three hours post training and in
18 exhaled breath immediately following training; and

19 WHEREAS, a single day of OSB container fire
20 training led to a thirty-fold increase of 1-
21 Hydroxypyrenein in fire instructors, culminating in a
22 median end-of-shift concentration 3.5 times greater
23 than the median levels measured from a previous
24 controlled residential fire study; and

25 WHEREAS, the same study identified breath
26 concentrations of benzene increased two to seven
27 times immediately after the same training exercises;

28 and
29 WHEREAS, the binding agent used in OSB
30 Polymethylene Polyphenylisocyanate (PMDI) CAS #
31 9016-87-9 (SDS) is already banned under NFPA
32 1403 4.13.2 as Polyurethane foam; therefore be it
33 RESOLVED, That the delegates assembled at
34 the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters Convention in
35 2020 support and endorse the discontinuation of
36 burning OSB containing PMDI in training fires; and
37 be it further
38 RESOLVED, That upon passage of this
39 resolution, the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters
40 shall submit this resolution to the International
41 Association of Fire Fighters for consideration at the
42 next convention of the IAFF; and be it further
43 RESOLVED, That the VPPF further endorses
44 and supports the public comment to NFPA 1403
45 banning the use of OSB containing PMDI in live fire
46 training.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 2598, Prince William Professional
Fire Fighters

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: