

DRAFT

STATEMENT FOR JACK GANNON, PRESIDENT, IAFF
FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE PRESS CONFERENCE

The International Association of Firefighters commends this effort to lower the number of fires ignited by careless smokers. It is well known that burning and smouldering furniture is responsible for more fire deaths than any other single fire scenario, and smouldering cigarettes left by careless smokers are the ignition source in the great majority of those fires.

The IAFF supports the effort mandated under the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 to determine the feasibility of developing a firesafe cigarette and a test method leading to regulation in this area.

We commend the work of the Technical Study Group and the National Bureau of Standards and urge them to move forward as quickly as possible. It is gratifying to see industries working to solve a problem in concert with the foremost governmental experts in the furniture flammability field such as Gordon Damant, Chief of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of Congressman Joe Moakley who has helped save the

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lives of untold numbers of citizens and firefighters with his untiring support of a number of fire safety programs.

But Joe Moakley would be the first to tell you that what we have done is not enough. Our fire death and injury rate in this country is still a shameful blot on our nation. The search for a solution to one aspect of the problem should not be allowed to overshadow the need for a total program to wipe out this blot once and for all. The IAFF will continue to support not only the work of the Technical Study Group but also the effort to improve the flame resistance of furniture and other room contents so that they will not ignite from careless smoking nor increase the flashover potential of high risk occupancies and to improve the fire-gas toxicity characteristics of building materials. We also support the effort to require fire protection sprinklers in buildings and homes. The program to solve the fire safety problem in this country must be comprehensive and we call on industry and citizens alike to work with us in a total effort.

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