



## Media Advisory

Deborah O. Raphael, Director

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For Planning Purposes

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### *A thought-provoking discussion on the role of flame retardant chemicals in California*

February 10, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
University of California, Berkeley  
150 University Hall

SACRAMENTO, CA. - On February 10, Debbie Raphael, Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), will preview new regulations that describe how California is asking manufacturers to identify safer chemicals in consumer products. Raphael will join a panel of experts at the University of California, Berkeley, to discuss the role of flame retardant chemicals. The seminar is hosted by the Green Science Policy Institute.

Flame retardant chemicals are added to furniture and baby products to meet a California furniture flammability standard. These chemicals have been detected in the blood and body tissues of Californians including children. They can cause adverse reproductive, immune, neurological, and/or carcinogenic effects in animals.

Other distinguished speakers at the seminar include:

- **Mytro Petreas**, Ph.D., DTSC, Chief of the Environmental Chemistry Branch will talk about the variety and toxicity of flame retardants currently being used in home products.
- **Vyto Babrauskas**, Ph.D., a leading fire scientist, will discuss how the current furniture flammability standard can be improved without toxic flame retardants in children's products and furniture.
- **Arlene Blum**, Ph.D., visiting Scholar in Chemistry at UCB will share the Green Science Policy Institute's scientific research and educational work to protect global health from the unnecessary use of flame retardants.
- **Dave Panning** of the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association will share the industry perspective regarding the flame retardant dilemma.

**More:** Exposure to toxic chemicals in everyday life has increasingly become an environmental and health concern. DTSC's proposed Safer Consumer Products regulation places California at the forefront of an international effort to identify safer ingredients for consumer goods. The regulations are a cornerstone of California's landmark Green Chemistry Initiative signed into law in 2008. To find out more about DTSC's efforts to make consumer products safer, watch the introductory video at: <http://dtsc.ca.gov/SCPVideo.cfm>

For registration and agenda visit:

<http://www.greensciencepolicy.org/flame-retardant-dilemma-do-flame-retardants-save-lives>

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.***