

## Safety

*Safety technology applications include ideas that reduce or eliminate hazards related to the building or during construction.*

### Technology Scanning

One of PATH's major research support services is Technology Scanning. *Technology Scanning* tells us about technology developments in other industries, from other nations, from federal laboratories, and from other building sectors. PATH looks for breakthroughs in other industries that could be transferred and applied to housing. *Technology Scanning*-published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/PATH and prepared by Newport Partners LLC-is updated as technology developments dictate.

This issue of *Technology Scanning* is one in a series. Each issue in the series falls into one of the following categories:

- Design and Internet Tools
- Safety
- Surfaces and Interior Finishes
- Building Envelope Technologies
- Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning
- Energy/Power Systems Generation
- Basic Materials
- Information Technology
- Thermal and Moisture Protection
- Indoor Environmental Quality

For other available Technology Scanning issues, log onto [www.pathnet.org](http://www.pathnet.org).



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### Fire Resistant Paint

International Fire Resistant Systems, Inc. produces an intumescent paint coating, called Firefree 88, that is capable of providing a fire-resistant barrier on a variety of substrates, including gypsum board, oriented strand board and other wood products, and composite architectural panels. The manufacturer claims that Firefree 88 is nontoxic and has the lowest levels of VOC's (33g/L) of the majority of paint products on the market. Firefree 88 contains a synthetic component consisting of ceramic fiber which, when heated, expands and reflects heat. The product can be sprayed, rolled, or brushed on. It can provide a one-hour fire rating when applied to 1/2" type X gypsumboard. Firefree can also be used on lumber and on completed assemblies to achieve improved fire ratings. The product may be equally applicable to new and retrofit construction.

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### Fire Resistant Fibers

Unifrax has developed a patented fiber for all sorts of applications that can withstand temperatures of 1260 degrees C (2300 degrees F). Isofrax 1260C Paper is manufactured by forming this fiber in a nonwoven matrix. The fibers



**Demonstration of Intumescent paint product, Firefree 88®, in San Francisco.**

Courtesy: International Fire Resistant Systems, Inc.

are randomly oriented and held together using a latex binder to form uniform, lightweight, flexible materials. The product is easy to shape or cut. It has low thermal conductivity and is very stable even at high temperatures. Current applications include aerospace heat shields, automotive muffler insulation, and gaskets for ovens, stoves, and heaters.

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