Fire resistant? Hardly. In 2014, an electrical fire turned a GlaxoSmithKline CLT building into ashes.

"I’M VERY RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE ANYTHING MADE OUT OF SAWDUST AND GLUE."

— JACK J. MURPHY, New Jersey fire marshal and firefighter, and Chairman of the Fire Safety Directors Association of Greater New York

Proponents of cross-laminated timber (CLT) claim it’s a more fire-resistant building material than regular softwood lumber. Unfortunately, it’s very design makes it more dangerous. Recent studies¹ have shown that when CLT starts burning, the fire penetrates deep within the boards and laminate making it difficult — even impossible — to extinguish.

See why concrete continues to be a proven solution for America’s buildings. Visit BuildWithStrength.com.

¹CLT Builder’s Risk Erik G. Olsen, CSP, CFPS Executive Property Specialist Chubb Insurance
DON’T BE FOOLED. IT’S EASY TO GET BURNED BY CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER.

Cross-laminated timber (CLT) is the hot new building material all right. And that’s exactly the problem. Compared with non-combustible materials like concrete, CLT is an unproven material that poses major fire risks, especially for high-rise construction.

CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER

- The wood industry continues to make deceptive claims that cross-laminated timber (CLT) is safe building material for high rises despite evidence to the contrary.
- European tests demonstrated sprinklers did not stop the fire from spreading out from the room of origin and the charring rate varied unpredictably.
- U.S. National Institute of Standards testing showed that heat delamination of exposed CLT panels affected its fire performance and led to re-flare and re-growth of the fire.

[The National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada with The U.S. National Institute of Standards]

VS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

- Can withstand temperatures over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit giving occupants and fire service precious time to react.
- Offers the safety and resilience of non-combustible construction.
- Can cost up to 72% less to insure than a wood-frame building.
- Combined with other fire-safety systems, concrete allows you to exceed building requirements—instead of just meeting them.

Visit BuildWithStrength.com