

Smoke Alarm Warning

Why a Growing Number of Fire Fighters are Absolutely Convinced Your Ionization Smoke Alarms May Not Save You

	<p>“Fire officials have a Special Duty of Care to publicly denounce ionization so called smoke alarms.” Chief Marc McGinn Fire Professional 32 years Albany Fire Chief 17 years California, U.S.A. 01 July 2010 (page 13)</p>
 <p>Chief Marc McGinn</p>	 <p>David Isaac CSIRO Test Data Expose Ionization Smoke Alarm Defects (page 4)</p>

 <p>www.TheWFSF.org</p>	<p>This Report is Customizable</p> <p>The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks You or Your Organization for Supporting this Life-Saving Message (page 15)</p>	<p>Your Company or Organization Logo Goes Here</p>
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SUMMARY & CONTENTS

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms Save More Lives

Safer For You | Safer For Fire Fighters™

SAVE MORE LIVES

	page	Ionization	Photoelectric
Failure to Activate	7	Significant	Insignificant
False Alarms and Disconnections	7	Significant	Insignificant
Recommended by Fire Fighters	12	No	Yes
Safer for Fire Fighters™	7	No	Yes
Disposal	7	Radioactive	Not Radioactive
Price	8	Affordable	Affordable
Located	3	Most Homes	Commercial Buildings

PSASMLGraphicV1.2.jpg
 © Copyright World Fire Safety Foundation - Nov 2014

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/wfsf

“Using better (photoelectric) smoke alarms will drastically reduce loss of life among citizens and fire fighters.”



Harold Schaitberger
 General President, IAFF
 Washington DC, USA | Oct 2008

“FRNSW does NOT support the fitting and installation of ionization alarms. We ONLY recommend photoelectric alarms.”



Greg Mullins AFSM
 Commissioner FRNSW, President AFAC, NSW, Australia | Oct 2014
 (pages 3, 11 & 12)

“If fire officials had really understood the difference between the two technologies, like they’re starting to learn now, there’s a good chance our kids would be alive today.”



Dean & Andrea Dennis
 Dean Dennis, Fathers For Fire Safety, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA | June, 2008
Note: Andrea died in an off-campus fire with four other students at Ohio State University in April 2003.
 (pages 7 & 14)

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How to Use this Report	1. Very Busy: Read pages 1 - 4 Less than 4 minutes
	2. Busy: Read pages 1 - 10 Approx. 14 minutes
	3. Fire Fighters: Read entire report Approx. 21 minutes



“A third of all the deaths in the United States could be prevented by switching to photoelectric.”



Deputy Chief Jay Fleming
 Boston Fire Department MA, U.S.A.
 Committee Member for United States
 Smoke Alarm Standard: UL217

(page 6)

WFSF Message: You Can Help Save Lives

After decades of misinformation, the smoke alarm industry continues to mislead the public and fire fighters. The industry claims ionization alarms are safe. However, the standards upon which the industry is built are flawed.

David Isaac is Australia’s leading fire safety expert and a Standards Australia committee member. For years, he’s been warning that the Australian (AS3786-1993) and U.S. (UL217) smoke alarm standards are flawed and that most people have the wrong type of smoke alarm in their home. In the 60 Minutes special investigation into Australia’s worst ever house fire, Mr. Isaac said,

“That house had ionization alarms. But they’d been turned off because they kept going off when they weren’t supposed to. Photoelectric smoke alarms don’t have the same problem.”

“Fire Fighters have not been told the truth . . . discover the facts about ionization alarms for yourself.”



Peter Cannon
 President, Volunteer Fire Fighter’s
 Association, NSW, Australia
[from the WFSF’s Home Page](#)

Saving Lives

60 Minutes’ special investigation (page 4) could be the catalyst for ending decades of needless injuries and deaths. After watching it and replacing your smoke alarms, please help save lives by spreading this message to your family and friends - to everyone you know (page 10).

Thank you.

The World Fire Safety Foundation

Adrian Butler & Karl Westwell
 Co-Founders, NSW, Australia | 23 Nov 2014

WIN NEWS June 2012

“The photoelectric alarms; the tests are showing they react faster, particularly in smoldering fires which are the main type of fire you get in a home.”

Greg Mullins AFSM | President, AFAC
 Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW - One of the World’s Largest Urban Fire Brigades

60 MINUTES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION Oct 2014

“...CSIRO test evidence shows how bad these things are ... if photoelectric smoke alarms were mandated ... the death toll from residential fires would drop.”

David Isaac | Fire Safety Expert
 Member, Standard Australia’s Smoke Alarm Committee FP002

“Well the Board is not satisfied at this stage that it needs to make any further changes to the Code.”

Neil Savery | General Manager, ABCB
 Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) with 60 Minutes Reporter, Karl Stefanovic



Australia | 19 October 2014
 New Zealand | 10 November 2014

Trailer | 31 seconds



Why the smoke alarm in your home may not save you.

Part One | 9 Minutes



Part Two | 11 Minutes



“Like most of us, I thought the fire alarms fitted in my home would protect my family, but what I’ve just seen is shocking.”

“What will it take for the Board (ABCB) to make that decision to change lives?”
 Karl Stefanovic, Reporter | 60 Minutes Australia



“Grab yourself the photoelectric alarms, bring them back to your home, unscrew the ionization ones, put the photoelectric ones on the ceiling. It can save your family’s life.”

Karl Stefanovic, 60 Minutes Reporter

David Isaac Interview | 2 Minutes



David Isaac | Australia’s Leading Fire Safety Expert, over 40 years electrical engineering experience, Standards Australia committee member FP002, FPAA technical advisory committee member TAC/2

Karl Stefanovic Interview | 2 Minutes



Karl Stefanovic | Australian Gold Logie-Winning television presenter, co-host, Nine Network’s ‘Today’ breakfast program, 60 Minutes reporter

Why Won't the ABCB Change the Code?

In 2007 - 2008 Standards Australia made the needed revisions to Australia's flawed smoke alarm standard. However, why is the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) continuing to block the adoption of the revised standard into the Building Code of Australia (BCA - the 'Code')?

A Criminal Act of Negligence?

In February 2007, the World Fire Safety Foundation sent hard copies of its 'C.A.N. Report' by registered mail to 11 ABCB senior staff and all 15 Board Members. Their names and positions are on page 14 of the report.

The report supported Standard Australia's second attempt to have the ABCB adopt Australia's amended smoke alarm standard (AS3786-1993) into the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The report provided compelling evidence that ionization alarms are unsafe. It also warned of legal implications for the ABCB's ongoing failure to adopt Standards Australia's critical amendment into the BCA.

In March 2007, despite 'The CAN Report' and Standard Australia's second 'Preliminary Impact Assessment' providing the ABCB with overwhelming scientific evidence and legal precedents, the ABCB wrote to the World Fire Safety Foundation (see below) stating the problem was "**not clear to the Board.**" Consider the following:

- FACT:** Australian Government (CSIRO) test data since 1993 show ionization alarms fail to activate in Australian Standards testing until more than three times the maximum safe limit set for photoelectric alarms.
- FACT:** Legislation to mandate photoelectric smoke alarms has been enacted in Australia's Northern Territory and the U.S. states of Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and [numerous cities and municipalities](#).
- FACT:** The June 2006, [official position of all Australian and New Zealand Fire Brigades](#) states, "*That all residential accommodation be fitted with **photoelectric** smoke alarms ... **ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time** to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires.*" (emphasis added)
- FACT:** Standards Australia has revised the Australian Smoke Alarm Standard (AS3786-1993). Despite repeated attempts, the ABCB has refused to adopt it into the Building Code of Australia.
- FACT:** Since the 1996 edition of the BCA, photoelectric detectors have been mandated in all Australian hospitals.
- FACT:** U.S. Federal court judges declared an ionization smoke alarm to be "**defectively designed**" and its failure to be "**a legal cause of deaths**" ([Sheila Hackert v First Alert Inc.](#) March 2008).

The ABCB's Double Standard

In 2004, the ABCB approved changes to the [Building Code of Australia](#) (BCA - the 'Code'), the effect of which is to mandate photoelectric smoke detectors in new commercial buildings. Legislation has been enacted to mandate photoelectric alarms in several U.S. states and municipalities and Australia's Northern Territory. However, the ABCB has refused to change the Code to mandate photoelectric smoke alarms in Australian and New Zealand homes.



Graham Huxley

"It is not clear to the Board from the evidence available that ionization detectors do not achieve the level of performance required for warning occupants in the event of a fire."

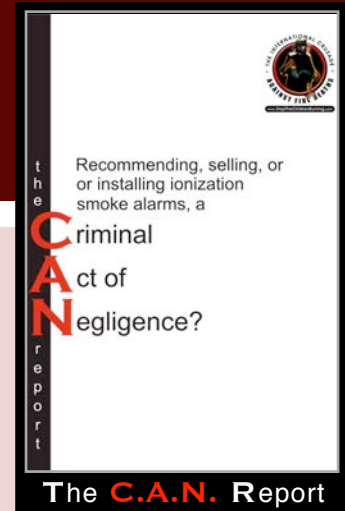
Extract from ABCB's Chairman of the Board, [Mr Graham Huxley's letter to the WFSF](#) after sending C.A.N. report to all ABCB Board members | 09 March 2007

"Well the Board is not satisfied at this stage that it needs to make any further changes to the Code."

ABCB's General Manager, Mr Neil Savery's response to 60 Minutes question about changing the Code October 2014 (see page 3)



Neil Savery



www.TheWFSF.org/can

The ABCB's Refusal to Change the Code is Putting Lives at Risk
Please Help Spread This Message ... See Page 10

“A Growing Number of Fire Fighters are Absolutely Convinced Ionization Alarms Will Not Go Off in Time.”

abc GMA INVESTIGATES Will Your Smoke Detector Respond Fast Enough?



NEOFPA President John Desmarteau (left) with GMA's Gio Benitez

29 May 2014

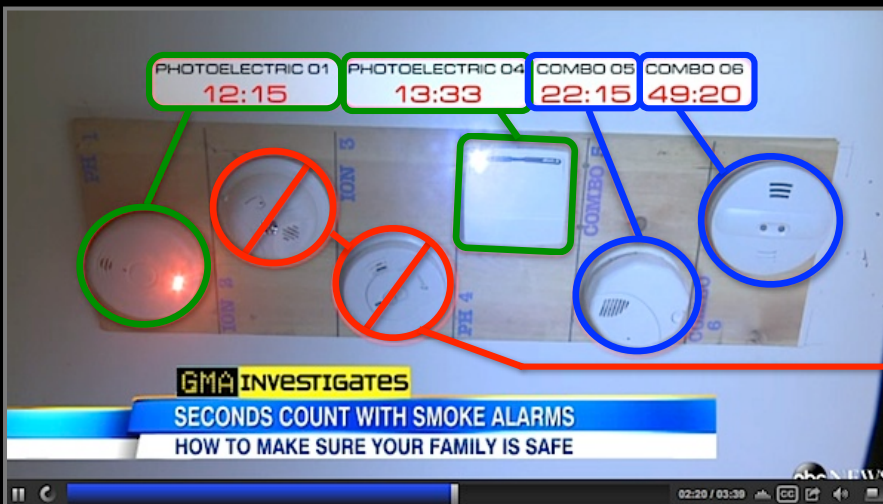
In May 2014, the North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NEOFPA) conducted full-scale tests to demonstrate the performance differences between ionization, photoelectric and combination smoke alarms. The story aired across the USA on the ABC's 'Good Morning America Investigates'.



1. NEOFPA President Oversees Testing



2. Photoelectric Alarms Activate Before Combination Ionization/Photoelectric Alarms Ionization Alarms Did Not Activate



Photoelectric 1: 12 minutes
Photoelectric 2: 13 minutes

Combination 1: 22 minutes
Combination 2: 49 minutes

Ionization 1: Did Not Activate
Ionization 2: Did Not Activate

3. Ionization Alarms Failed Test Aborted at 70 Minutes



BREAKING NEWS Cleveland, Ohio, USA | 10 Nov 2014
The Alarming Truth About Smoke Detectors
Fire Fighters Say Lives at Risk



Ron Regan
Chief Investigative Reporter

“A growing number of fire fighters are absolutely convinced ionization alarms will not go off in time.”



David Isaac
Australia's Leading Fire Safety Expert

“The ionization detector will typically activate too late in a fire to allow someone to escape.”



Chief Fleming
Boston Fire Department

“A third of all the deaths in the United States could be prevented by switching to photoelectric.”

See the Three Part Series: [Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#) | [Part 3](#)

Ionization Technology Concerns

1. Failure to Activate

Ionization alarms' inability to safely detect fire in the early smoldering stage was first exposed in the 1976 'Smoke Detector Fraud Report.' See 'The History of Why America is Burning' on page 14.

CSIRO Test Data

The Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) holds scientific test data which show that ionization alarms do not activate in Australian Standards testing until more than three times the limit set for photoelectric alarms.

Legal Precedents

In 'The Law and You' radio interview, world experts discuss the Confidentiality Order preventing disclosure of the level of smoke ionization alarms activate under CSIRO testing (see page 14).



2. High False Alarm & Disconnection Rate

People often say, "My smoke alarm goes off when I'm cooking toast - it must be working fine." Ionization alarms are sub-micron particle detectors. They detect hot, invisible particles from cooking or an open flame. **They do not detect visible smoke**, even though they may appear to. Slow smoldering fires emit cool, visible smoke particles, but usually not enough of the hot invisible particles to activate ionization alarms. They will almost always remain silent during the smoldering stage of a fire - until the fire bursts into flame, after which it is often too late to safely escape (see page 11).



Research shows ionization alarms are **over five times** more likely to give a false alarm than photoelectrics. False/nuisance alarms lull people into a false sense of security. Many think because their ionization alarms are sensitive to cooking, they will give an early warning in the event of a real fire. This is not the case when a fire starts with an extended smoldering phase while you are sleeping.

Disconnection Rate

Because of the inherent false alarm problem with ionization technology, approximately 25% of ionization alarms are disconnected within the first two years. The disconnection rate for photoelectrics is negligible. Find out more [here](#).

3. Places Fire Fighters at Risk

When fire fighters are called out to homes with fires resulting from smoke alarm activations, the type of smoke alarm used is critical for public and fire fighter safety. If the alarm is activated by a fire in the flaming stage, the difference between ionization and photoelectric alarms is only a matter of a difference of seconds - if it has not been disconnected and if it is in the room of fire origin.

However, most fatal fires have a long smoldering phase. Photoelectric alarms can activate an hour or more before ionization alarms in smoldering fires. When this happens, in many cases consumers can safely put the fire out without any risk to themselves or our fire fighters.

Safer For Fire Fighters™

When firefighters are called out to a fire, if photoelectric alarms are installed, everyone should have already exited the home. When fires have not reached the flaming stage, the risk to fire fighters is dramatically reduced.

Install photoelectric alarms. Help make your family and our fire fighters safer! Find out more, read Fathers For Fire Safety's report:



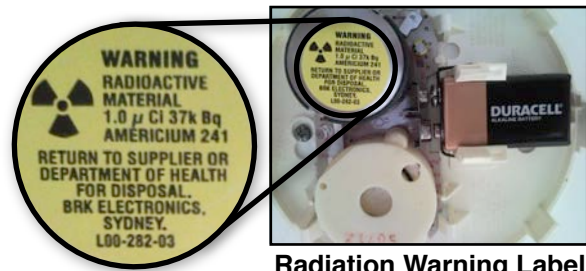
'Are Ionization Smoke Alarms Putting Fire Fighter Lives' at Risk?'

www.Scribd.com/doc/245353416

(also on page 14)

4. Environmental/Disposal Problem

All ionization alarms contain radioactive material.



Radiation Warning Label

Radioactive Materials: Disposal Problem

"...Where the smoke alarm contains a radioactive source, information about the source and instructions on how to return the smoke alarm to the supplier or to the Department of Health. **Warning shall also be given that alternative disposal is not permitted.**"

Australian Smoke Alarm Standard AS3786-1993: Page 16, Clause 4.2(j)

Photoelectric alarms do not contain radioactive material.

www.TheWFSF.org/radiation



see page 5

MYTH "My alarms pass the U.S./Australian Standard, surely they must be OK?"

5. Affordability

Combination photoelectric/ionization alarms cost more than stand-alone photoelectric alarms. Consumers with limited budgets may not be able to afford to protect as many rooms in their home with combination alarms as with stand-alone, photoelectric alarms.

Consumer Groups Speak Out

Cost is one of several reasons that the IAFF, AFAC and others do not recommend combination ion/photo alarms (page 12). Australian, U.S. and New Zealand consumer organizations have discovered the defects with ionization alarms and recommend photoelectric smoke alarms.

New Zealand

 Making decisions easy

"The ionization models ... were hopeless for smouldering fires ... That failing is potentially fatal."
 Consumer N.Z. scientific test results, May 2006

Australia

 THE PEOPLE'S WATCHDOG

"... it's really important that you have photoelectric alarms in your house; those smoky, smoldering fires are real killers..."
 Chris Barnes, Choice Australia, March 2010

U.S.A.

 PUBLICCITIZEN

"People are dying all the time because these (ionization) smoke detectors are inadequate."
 Joan Claybrook CEO, Public Citizen, Feb 2008

6. The Dual Alarm & Ionization/Photoelectric Combination Myth:

Since the mid-1970s, fire authorities have almost exclusively promoted ionization alarms. In December 2005, the Chief of Vermont's Barre City Fire Department lost his niece and her four children in a home fitted with hard-wired, working ionization alarms. The fire fighters wanted to know why they'd failed to activate.

They investigated and the truth that had been buried since the IAFC's 1980 'Residential Smoke Alarm Report' (page 11) began to re-emerge. In 2009, Vermont became the first state in the USA to pass legislation mandating photoelectric-only smoke alarms.

Fire Fighters' Lives At Risk

How could the smoke alarm industry hide the life-threatening defects when fire fighters were beginning to discover their own lives were at risk? By adding the flawed (ionization) technology with the effective (photoelectric) technology, they hoped no-one would know. That's why their claim, *"There are two types of fire so you need two type of smoke alarms"* is so insidious. It *appears* to make sense - but is this valid or a myth?

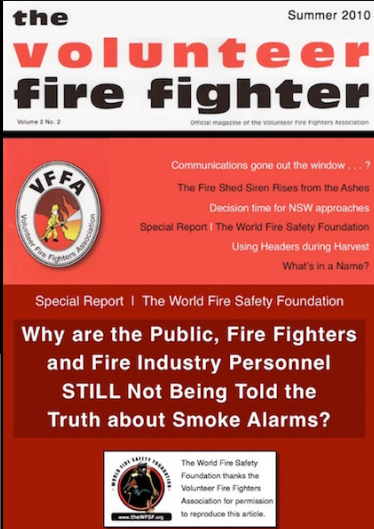
Failure to Warn

Since 1980, manufacturers have failed to warn about ionization alarms. However, since mid-2006, after 26 years of failing to warn, they now claim we need ionization *and* photoelectric alarms. Is it possible their recommendation for combination alarms or having one of each is a transition away from ionization alarms?

Why are the Public, Fire Fighters and Fire Industry Personnel STILL Not Being Told the Truth about Smoke Alarms?

Exposed:

1. Smoke alarms have reduced fire deaths by 50%.
2. Any smoke alarm is better than no smoke alarm.
3. There are 3 causes of fire: men, women and children.



Why are the Public, Fire Fighters and Fire Industry Personnel STILL Not Being Told the Truth about Smoke Alarms?

It's Time to Tell the Public and Fire Fighters the Truth

www.Scribd.com/doc/44342556

Stages of Fire - Not Types of Fire

Here is what they are not telling you. In most fatal fires, there are two **stages**, smoldering and flaming. You must detect fire in the early, **smoldering stage**, before the **flaming stage**, when it is too late to safely escape.



University of Cincinnati Smoke Detector Seminar

College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | 28 June, 2010



Capt. Clayton James

"Is it possible that the recommendation for dual or for both is maybe a compromise to transition away from ionization detectors?"

Captain Clayton L. James
 Newport Fire Department
 Kentucky, USA

"I think what we need to tell people is pretty simple. Do you want to live or die? And if you want to live, and you want to get out in time, then buy a photoelectric detector."

William (BJ) Jetter PhD, MIFireE, CFO
 OFE, CHSIII, Fire Chief, Sycamore
 EMS & Fire Department, Ohio, USA



Chief B.J. Jetter

www.TheWFSF.org/uc9

7. Sensor Sensitivity Manipulation (SSM)

The Global Push for Photoelectric Alarms

“A group of fire protection authorities across the world, including Boston’s Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Fleming and New Zealand’s Adrian Butler, are leading the push towards requiring photoelectric smoke alarms in all dwellings.”

Executive Summary: Page X, para 1

The Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), one of America’s oldest technical institutes, is located in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA) is Australia’s major technical and educational fire safety organization.

In 2009, the WPI produced a report for the FPAA to aid fire protection officials around the world in drafting smoke alarm legislation.

The following quotes are extracts from the report:

Photoelectric Alarms More Effective

“Studies have shown that photoelectric units are more effective at detecting the types of fires that are most likely to be fatal in homes: smoldering fires . . . The only case in which the ionization alarm responded first was when the alarm was in the room of ignition of a flaming fire. Even then, the photoelectric alarm still provided the occupants with enough time to escape safely.”

Executive Summary: Page X, para 2

Combination Smoke Alarms

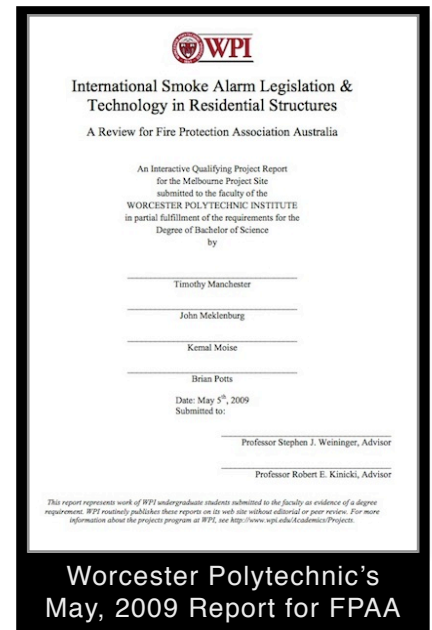
*“However, combination units also have their drawbacks. Detectors can be combined using either an ‘AND’ gate or an ‘OR’ gate (Ian Thomas Interview, Appendix L). An OR gate will sound an alarm if the unit receives a signal from either one of the detectors. This means that the unit will sound at the earliest possible time, but also that the unit is susceptible to the most nuisance alarms due to the cumulative weaknesses of each detector. **A unit designed with an ‘AND’ gate will not sound until it receives a signal from both detectors.**”*

Combination Smoke Alarms: Page 36, clause 4.1.3, para 3

Conclusion

“To provide earliest warning for all fires regardless of type, combination detectors (of the OR gate principle) are, ideally speaking, most effective. This assumes that they are fully operational, and do not have reduced or otherwise altered sensitivities (Ed Comeau Interview, Appendix A). It must also be noted that, due to the frequency of nuisance alarms from current ionization technologies, combination detectors are likely to be disabled by a consumer, rendering them useless to warn occupants of any fire.”

Conclusion: Page 35, clause 4.1.8, para 2



Worcester Polytechnic’s
May, 2009 Report for FPAA

www.TheWFSF.org/wpi

You Can Not Hide Ionization Alarms’ Inherent Defects by Combining them with Photoelectric Alarms

CPSC
Smoke Alarms – Pilot Study of Nuisance Alarms Associated with Cooking
March 2010

Raw number of unwanted cooking activations in test house #9 from Dual Sensor alarms, side by side comparison of Dual Sensor alarms between two manufacturers.

Distance in Feet	Manufacturer A	Manufacturer B
3	48	2
5	28	5
7.5	15	2
10	22	2
15	2	2
20	2	2

The ionization sensor is often manipulated in dual sensor alarms to reduce nuisance alarms.

“Sensor Sensitivity Manipulation” (SSM) describes manipulating ionization sensor settings in combination ionization/photoelectric alarms to reducing nuisance alarming.

In the above CPSC* chart, unwanted activations are shown from two leading manufacturers (for legal reasons, the CPSC protects manufacturer identities by naming them ‘A’ & ‘B’). It should be observed that manufacturer ‘A’ had 115 of the total 127 unwanted activations.

*Smoke Alarms - Pilot Study of Nuisance Alarms Associated with Cooking’ CPSC, 03/2010

Dean Dennis

The WFSF thanks Dean Dennis from Fathers For Fire Safety for his research material



see page 12

MYTH “But we don’t have an official position on smoke alarms.”

How You Can Help Save Lives:

Since starting the campaign in 2000, there have been hundreds of media reports warning about problems with ionization alarms. Tragically, almost all of them get watered down.

60 Minutes' Alarming Truth exposé is the best ever produced. It focuses on the crux of the problem: flawed smoke alarm standards. Make sure everyone sees this amazing story.

Spreading this message will save lives. Please help.

Thank you.

The World Fire Safety Foundation

Adrian Butler *Chairman, Co-Founder, Former Fire Fighter*

Karl Westwell *Co-Founder, Director of Strategy & Research*



World Fire Safety Foundation Co-Founders
Adrian Butler (left) and Karl Westwell with Chief Marc McGinn, April 2011 | Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

1. Install Photoelectric Alarms

We recommend installing photoelectric-only alarms (not combination ionization/photoelectric) in all bedrooms, outside bedrooms in hallways and in all exit paths.

2. Like Us on FaceBook



Please . . .



Thank You!

3. Sign the Change.org Petition



4. Your Custom Document & Web Page

We've designed this report so you can send it as is, or have a custom version with your personal, company or business name, and/or logo, together with a custom page on The World Fire Safety Foundation's website:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/supporters.html

A Personal Message to Fire Fighters

Adrian Butler, Chairman WFSF, former full-time fire fighter | 23 Nov 2014

Sept 1980: IAFC Report

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) 'Residential Smoke Alarm Report' warned, "lives may be in danger" and that the IAFC "could take no other course but to recommend the installation of photoelectric smoke detectors."

Tragically, the IAFC's warning went unheeded for 26 years - until . . .

In 1997, Karl Westwell and I were running a franchise throughout Australia and New Zealand called [Maximum Fire & Safety](#). We sold thousands of ionization alarms. Everything was going well until customers complained their alarms would go off when cooking yet remain silent during an actual fire. We investigated. What we discovered was almost impossible to believe.

Jan 2000: Silent Alarms

'Silent Alarms' is an award-winning documentary that aired across Canada in January 2000. When we watched it, we were horrified. It showed the ionization alarms we'd been selling for years failing in scientific tests. We knew we had to get everyone to see it. However, Canadian T.V. had been threatened with litigation and would not let us distribute the film.

Everyone kept saying there was nothing wrong with ionization alarms. No one believed us, especially the fire service, which said ionization alarms "pass the U.S. and Australian standard so they must be OK".

But we knew they were not OK. The more research we did, the more convinced we became. Ionization alarms go off when cooking or with a naked flame, but they remain silent during the early, smoldering stage of a fire - when you need them most.

World Fire Safety Foundation

Everyone was convinced their smoke alarms functioned as intended - after all, if there was a problem, fire



departments would have told them. So in mid-2000, we set up the World Fire Safety Foundation to help get the message about the defects with ionization alarms to the public and especially to our fire fighters.

We did not ask for any funding. The information against ionization alarms was so compelling we were sure within 18-24 months the message would be out and we'd be able to close down the Foundation. Our mission statement became the name of our film . . .

Oct 2004: Stop The Children Burning

Because we couldn't distribute Silent Alarms, we decided to make our own documentary. [Stop The Children Burning](#) was released in Australia in October 2004. Sections of it were included in a national Australian T.V. program warning about ionization alarms.

The TV station brought in a fire safety expert, Mr David Isaac, to give an industry perspective on the Foundation's seemingly outlandish allegations. However, he concurred with us. We soon discovered he was a

member of the committee that writes Australia's smoke alarm standard.

Feb 2006: Flawed Standards

The Australian and U.S. smoke alarm standards have been proven to be flawed. [Underwriters Laboratories \(UL\) has been sued](#) for alleged fraudulent testing of ionization alarms. In 2006, Standards Australia discovered that its smoke alarm standard is also flawed. Examine our in-depth report: ['Can Australian and U.S. Smoke Alarm standards be Trusted?'](#)

Fire Fighters Oath

If you're an Australian or New Zealand fire fighter, please check out the official position of the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC). AFAC is the peak representative body of all Australian and New Zealand Fire Brigades. AFAC only recommends photoelectric alarms.

If you are a U.S. or Canadian fire fighter, check out the next two pages. See how government agencies and manufacturers are failing in their 'Special Duty of Care' to warn the public about ionization alarms' known defects.

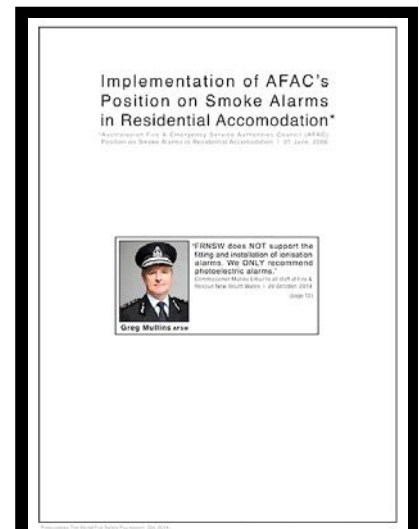
You took an oath to protect the public. Recommending ionization alarms is not just putting the public's lives at risk, but also your own.



Adrian Butler, WFSF Co-Founder at New Zealand Fire Service Basic Fire Fighter Graduation Auckland, New Zealand | April 1978



The WFSF's Mission Statement 'Stop The Children Burning' is the name of our documentary



Implementation of AFAC's 2006 Smoke Alarm Position

"FRNSW does NOT support the fitting and installation of ionisation alarms. We ONLY recommend photoelectric alarms."
FRNSW Commissioner Mullins AFSM
President, AFAC | October 2014

www.Scribd.com/doc/244277221

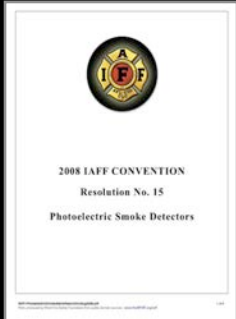


IAFF Resolution | AFAC Position

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms - Recommended by:

International Association of Fire Fighters
(IAFF - 300,000+ Canadian & U.S. members)

Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council
(AFAC - Represents all Australian & New Zealand Fire Fighters)



IAFF Resolution: 2008

“Whereas IAFF members should advocate for their mandatory requirement for placement and use of photoelectric alarms in fire and building codes . . .”
IAFF Resolution on Photoelectric Alarms
Page 3, Line 55 - Adopted August 2008

“That all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric smoke alarms.”
AFAC Position on Smoke Alarms
Page 3, Clause 3 - Published June 2006



AFAC Position: 2006

Government’s & Manufacturers’ Position

They have kept the truth about ionization alarm defects hidden from the public and our Fire Fighters for decades and:

- Do not risk their lives fighting fires.
- Despite empirical scientific evidence and legal precedents proving ionization alarms are unsafe, continue to fail in their [Special Duty of Care](#) with the life-threatening defects with ionization alarms.¹
- Recommend using Ionization and Photoelectric alarms or combination ion/photo alarms.

Fire Fighters’ Official Position

When under the International Association of Fire Fighters or the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council they:

- Risk their lives fighting fires.
- Urge changing to photoelectric alarms because: *“Ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires.”*
- Recommend Photoelectric alarms only. Do not recommend combination ion/photo alarms.

“The International Association of Fire Chiefs warned about ionization smoke alarms in 1980² and urged Fire Chiefs to recommend photoelectric smoke alarms: www.TheWFSF.org/iafc Tragically, its message was buried. Since 2006, manufacturers and governments have failed to warn the public of the defects inherent in ionization alarms. They now claim there are two types of fires (smoldering and flaming) so the public needs two types of smoke alarms³.

By doing this, for legal and political reasons, they do not have to admit they failed to warn the public.

*However, there are not two **types** of fire - there are two **stages** of a fire. Most fatal fires have a smoldering stage before bursting into flames. Australian government (CSIRO) test data prove ionization alarms may not operate in time for occupants to escape from the early, smoldering stage of fatal fires.”*

Adrian Butler, Chairman, The World Fire Safety Foundation, NSW, Australia, 23 November 2014

¹UTC, the world’s second largest smoke alarm manufacturer, refused to disclose the level of smoke its ionization alarms activated under CSIRO testing after numerous letters and a request in the Parliament of New South Wales Australia by Mr Christopher Gulaptis MP.

²Most Fire Departments today are unaware of the decades of misinformation about ionization alarms and flawed Smoke Alarm Standards. However, as they become aware, a growing number are taking a stand, e.g. the [North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association](#), the [Ohio Fire Chief’s Association](#) and the [Queensland Fire and Emergency Service](#).

³‘The Dual Alarm and Combination Ionization/Photoelectric Combination Myth’ (see page 8)



IAFF & AFAC’s Official Warning About Ionization Alarms
“Ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires.”

Extract from the IAFF Resolution and the AFAC Position above

Note: See the IAFF & AFAC President’s Quotes on page 2

Albany Fire Department's Stand Against Ionization and Combination Ionization/Photoelectric Alarms



"When you mix clear water with muddy water you still have muddy water."
 Chief McGinn's quote after Albany's landmark legislation mandating photoelectric-only smoke alarms, not combination ionization/photo-electric alarms | 21 June 2010

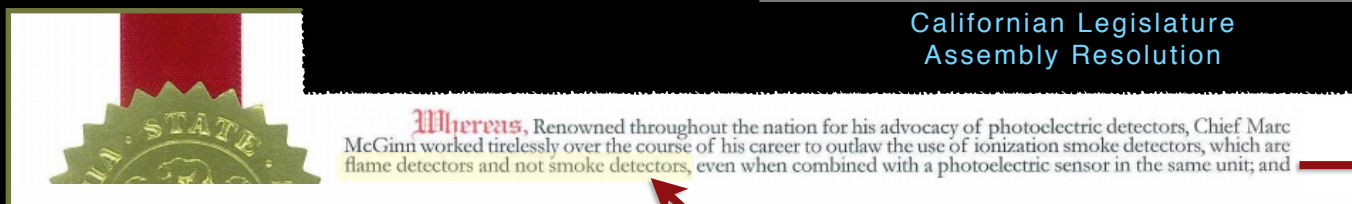
Chief Marc McGinn
 Albany Fire Department
 Albany, California, USA



Albany, California Fire Department's Warning About "Deadly" Ionization Alarms



Californian Legislature Assembly Resolution



"...flame detectors and not smoke detectors..."



A Special Duty of Care

If the public are told to buy photoelectric smoke alarms because "they're better" most people will do nothing. Why should they? Ionization alarms will often activate when cooking toast, lulling people into a false sense of security.

Authorities have a **Special Duty of Care** to warn the public and fire fighters that ionization alarms have life-threatening defects and thereby allow them to make an informed decision so they may properly protect their families from fire.

Adrian Butler, Chairman WFSF, NSW, Australia | 23 November 2014



Adrian Butler



see page 7

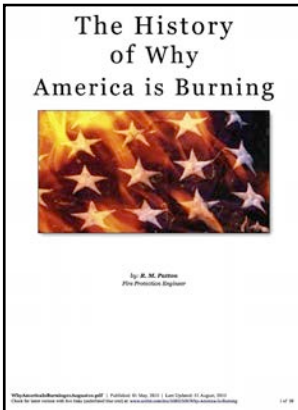
MYTH "But my ionization alarms are great, they go off when I cook."

Messages for Fire Fighters | Litigation | More



Dean & Andrea Dennis

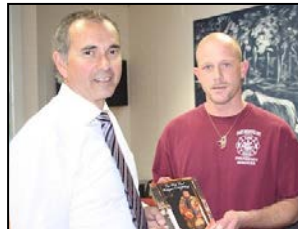
Are Ionization Smoke Alarms Putting Fire Fighters' Lives at Risk?
"If fire officials had really understood the difference between the two technologies, like they're starting to learn now, there's a good chance our kids would be alive today."
 Dean Dennis, Fathers For Fire Safety, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
www.Scribd.com/doc/245353416



How the truth about ionization alarm defects has been hidden for the public and fire fighters for over forty years.
 by Richard M Patton, Fire Protection Engineer, Sacramento, California, USA
www.TheWFSF.org/waib

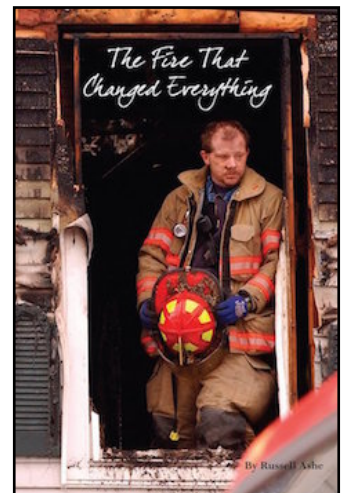


Richard Patton FPE



Hear ABC Radio Interview
 with Captain Ashe and Australian MP, Chris Gulaptis

The story of 'The Fire That Changed Everything', the catalyst behind the first U.S. photoelectric only state-wide legislation.
 by Russell Ashe, Medal of Honor firefighter, Vermont, USA



www.TheWFSF.org/ashetour



Labarron Boone

'The Law And You' Radio Interview

24 June, 2014 | Montgomery, Alabama, U.S.A

Radio interview with Australian and U.S. smoke alarm experts and record-breaking U.S. law firm:
"...this ionization smoke detector is dangerous and people are going to die because of that danger."
 Quote from 'The Law & You' Interview by Labarron Boone, Partner and Shareholder, Beasley Allen Law Firm, Montgomery, AL, USA | 24 June 2014



www.Vimeo.com/99344355



Smoke Alarm Myths Explained

- Find answers to common myths by,
1. Clicking on your country's link below:
Australia | New Zealand | U.K.
www.TheWFSF.org/firefightersaunz
U.S.A. | Canada
www.TheWFSF.org/firefightersusca
 2. Scroll down to the bottom of page



The Foundation's website is the world's largest resource on ionization and photoelectric alarms:

www.TheWFSF.org



The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks
You or Your Organization
for Supporting this Life-saving Message

**Your
Company or
Organization
Logo Goes
Here**

You or Your Organization's Name Goes Here

Become a WFSF Supporter:

This Report and a Webpage
Customized for You

This page can be used to promote you or your
organization for free - no strings attached.

You get free advertising.

We get our message to more people.

Your family, friends and associates are better protected.

It's a Win-Win-Win.

This is your page - do with it what you please.

Find out more:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/supporters.html