

# The First Four Documents

EXPOSING FLAWED SMOKE ALARM STANDARDS

## The Speech

### “Are Ionization Smoke Alarms Defective”

Smoke Alarms  
Statement to the  
NSW, Australian Parliament  
**Mr Christopher Gulaptis MP**  
20 June, 2013



**Mr Chris Gulaptis, MP**  
Clarence - The Nationals

*“I asked United Technologies Corporation at what level of smoke the Quell-branded ionization smoke alarm in my own home activated under Australian Standards testing. Despite four written requests it has failed to answer my single question.”*

*“My interest in this matter is motivated by the desire to save lives this winter. On that basis, I ask both United Technologies Corporation and the CSIRO to answer my questions.”*



for video and audio  
embedded in this  
document - see page 4

The Story

**The Speech**

The Report

The Open Letters

**Note:**

Audio recorded live from the NSW Parliament, Australia, 20 June, 2013.  
Audio different to Government (Hansard) transcript - see notes page 3.

**CLICK PLAY**

Extracted [NSW Government website](#) 11 July, 2013:

### About this Item

Speakers	<a href="#">Gulaptis Mr Christopher</a>
Business	Private Members Statements, PRIV

## SMOKE ALARMS

Page: 21858

Hansard transcript begins. . .

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS** (Clarence) [4.28 p.m.]: With winter in full swing I draw the attention of the House to a question that impacts directly on the safety of every Australian this winter: Are ionisation smoke alarms defective? Two types of smoke alarms are installed in most Australian homes—ionisation and photoelectric—and both may be battery or mains powered. Most Australian homes are fitted with ionisation alarms because they have been widely promoted for decades. In 2004 the smoke alarm standard affecting commercial buildings was amended to mandate the installation of photoelectric smoke detectors. That begs an important question: Are ionisation smoke alarms defective?

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council is the peak representative body of all Australian and New Zealand fire brigades. In 2006 the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council released an official position statement. Clause 3 states, "That all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric smoke alarms; ionisation smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smouldering fires." In August 2008 the International Association of Fire Fighters said that photoelectric smoke alarms "will drastically reduce the loss of life among citizens and firefighters". The Northern Territory enacted Australia's first residential photoelectric legislation. Since November 2011 photoelectric smoke alarms must be installed in all new Northern Territory homes. Almost everyone agrees that we need to install photoelectric smoke alarms.

Last week I spoke with Mr Dean Dennis from Cincinnati, Ohio. Dean lost his daughter Andrea, along with three other students, in a house fire 10 years ago. The house was fitted with ionisation smoke alarms. Dean is regarded as a world expert on smoke alarm technology. He travels across the United States of America educating firefighters and senior fire department and government officials. He has been instrumental in numerous cities and States mandating the use of photoelectric smoke alarms. Cincinnati recently enacted legislation mandating photoelectric smoke alarms. Mr Dennis contacted me regarding the necessity of bringing this issue before Parliament. Recently I consulted with Mr David Isaac, a committee member overseeing Australia's smoke alarm standard. Sunday's *Sun-Herald* featured a story titled "Flawed detectors pass the test" and quoted Mr Isaac's statement, "Ionisation alarms are dangerous and the public have been misled into believing they are safe."

In April 2012 I wrote to Mr Mark Brisson, the Australasian President of United Technologies Corporation. United Technologies Corporation is the world's largest manufacturer of fire safety equipment, and the manufacturer of the ionisation smoke alarm in my home. United Technologies Corporation is the United States parent company for the Quell, Chubb and Kidde brands of ionisation alarms. I asked United Technologies Corporation at what level of smoke the Quell brand ionisation smoke alarm in my own home activated under Australian Standards testing. Despite four written requests it has failed to answer my single question. I sent an open letter to the President of United Technologies Corporation, Mr Louis Chenevert, requesting an answer.

The CSIRO is paid by manufacturers to conduct scientific testing of smoke alarms in accordance with Australian Standards. I have also written an open letter to Dr Megan Clark, the Chief Executive Officer of the CSIRO, requesting an answer to my question. I have requested the media be allowed to film the testing of ionisation alarms. The winter 2013 edition of the magazine of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association contains an article entitled, "Can Australian and US

Smoke Alarm Standards be Trusted?" Copies of this article and of all correspondence between me, United Technologies Corporation and the CSIRO are being sent to every member of Parliament. Lives are at stake—we have a moral imperative to get this right.

Adrian Butler, Chairman of the World Fire Safety Foundation, is one of my constituents. He believes the test data held by the CSIRO and manufacturers is the key to saving thousands of lives around the world every year. David Isaac informed me that photoelectric alarms typically activate at between 8 per cent to 12 per cent smoke in CSIRO tests. At what level of smoke did the Quell-branded United Technologies Corporation ionisation smoke alarm in my home activate under CSIRO testing? Will the CSIRO allow the media to film its smoke alarm testing? My interest in this matter is motivated by the desire to save lives this winter. On that basis, I ask both United Technologies Corporation and the CSIRO to answer my questions.

...Hansard transcript ends

#### Notes:

- Mr Christopher Gulaptis, Private Members Statements, New South Wales Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Assembly, 20/6/2013, pp.21858: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LA20130620041](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LA20130620041)
- The [Hansard transcript](#) above is a verified accurate record of the proceedings of the Australian Parliament. It is not verbatim. A verbatim transcript matching the original, live audio is here: [www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/thespeech.html](http://www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/thespeech.html)
- The Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organization (CSIRO) is the national government body for scientific research in Australia. United Technologies Corporation (UTC) is the world's largest manufacturer of fire safety products. The CSIRO and UTC open letters and other documents referred to in this speech are here: [www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/theopenletters.html](http://www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/theopenletters.html)

## You've Seen the First Two Documents. . .

### The Combo Con - Don't be Fooled

In 1980 the International Association of Fire Chief's 'Residential Smoke Alarm Report' warned ionization smoke alarms, ***"may be slow to activate in smoldering fires that lives may be in danger."*** After decades of failing to alert the public, government agencies and manufacturers are in an extremely difficult legal position.

Manufacturers now claim you need photoelectric **and** ionization alarms. This means they never have to admit the hundreds of millions of ionization alarms they sold for decades were unsafe. At first glance it appears they are now offering even better protection - but don't be fooled. . .

The World Fire Safety Foundation, the International Association of Fire Fighters, all Australian and New Zealand Fire Brigades, consumer, fire safety and other organizations recommend photoelectric and not ionization/ photoelectric combination alarms. Saving face is more important than saving lives.

Watch the trailer then the full two minute video below - discover the facts for yourself . . .

## For the Public

**The Right Protection - CBS5 Eyewitness News**  
California, USA | November, 2012 | (27 second extract)



**CLICK PLAY**

The two minute CBS5 news report with the interview with Albany's (retired) fire chief, Marc McGinn (on right) is [HERE](#)

**Albany, California's Fight for Photoelectrics**



Californian Fire Chief Marc McGinn, from San Francisco Chronicle's front page story, warning about the **"Deadly (ionization) Smoke Detectors"** in over 90% of American and Australian homes.

**Albany California's 'David vs Goliath' battle to introduce photoelectric-only legislation**

**Firefighters Legislators - Read 'The Report'** (see next page)

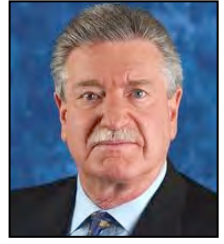
# When Standards are Flawed - Who can You Trust?



*"Using better (photoelectric) smoke alarms will drastically reduce the loss of life among citizens and fire fighters."*

Harold Schaitberger, President, The International Association of Fire Fighters, U.S.A. October, 2008

(see 'When Standards are Flawed - Who Can You Trust?', page 5 of [The Report](#))



Harold Schaitberger

## THE FIRST FOUR DOCUMENTS

For Everyone

The Story

**'Flawed' Detectors Pass The Test**  
The Sun-Herald  
Sydney, Australia  
16 June, 2013



For Firefighters & Legislators

The Report

World Fire Safety Foundation  
Report Exposing Flawed  
Smoke Alarm Standards  
20 May, 2013

Can Australian  
and U.S. Smoke  
Alarm Standards  
be Trusted?



The Speech

**"Are Ionisation Smoke Alarms Defective?"**  
Speech to the NSW  
Parliament, Australia  
20 June, 2013



The Open Letters

Open Letters to UTC  
& CSIRO Exposing Flawed  
Smoke Alarm Standards  
May, 2009 ~ July, 2013

UTC and CSIRO  
Failures  
to Disclose



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[www.TheWFSF.org](http://www.TheWFSF.org)

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