

The Alarming Truth

Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
New South Wales, Australia
Magazine Reprint - December 2014

the **volunteer** **fire fighter**

Volume 6 No.2 Official magazine of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

Summer 2014

WE WANT OUR BLUE SHIRTS BACK

- The Benefits of a CFU
- Base Camp...or the Sheraton?
- National Parks won't give an inch today!
- Country Women's Association NSW
- VRA – Volunteer Rescue Association
- Pioneer Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- The Path of Natural Justice
- **The Alarming Truth**

PHOTO COMPETITION
See inside for more details
\$1,000 Prize

weatherzone®

VFFA Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The World Fire Safety Foundation

www.TheWFSF.org

thanks the VFFA

for supporting this life-saving message

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

“What Will it Take for the Board to Make the Decision to Save Lives?”

Karl Stefanovic | ‘The Alarming Truth’ | 60 Minutes Australia

After decades of misinformation the smoke alarm industry continues to mislead the public and fire fighters by falsely claiming ionisation alarms are safe. They hide behind the fact they pass existing smoke alarm standards.

60 Minutes Special Investigation

Mr David Isaac is Australia’s leading fire safety expert and an Australian standard’s committee member. In ‘The Alarming Truth’, 60 Minute’s special investigation into Australia’s worst ever house fire, Mr Isaac stated, **“That house had ionisation alarms. But they’d been turned off because they kept going off when they weren’t supposed to. Photoelectric alarms don’t have the same problem.”**

Australian Building Codes Board

For years Mr Isaac’s Standards Committee has been warning the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) that people have the wrong type of smoke alarm in their home. In April 2004, the ABCB adopted an amendment to Australian Standard AS1670.1, to mandate photoelectric smoke detectors in all sleeping areas and exit paths in all new Australian commercial buildings to which this standard applies.

Since 1996, the ABCB has had a requirement in the Building Code of

Australia that photoelectric detectors must be installed in all patient care areas and exit paths from patient care areas. In 2011, the ABCB removed the requirement for alternating ionisation-photoelectric detectors in hospital corridors. This means photoelectric-only detectors are now mandatory in hospital corridors. However, despite the overwhelming evidence that ionisation alarms have life-threatening defects, the ABCB refuses to adopt the corrected Australian Smoke Alarm Standard (AS3786-1993) into the Building Code of Australia.

The ABCB’s actions have denied Australian homes the same level of protection found in most Australian commercial buildings.

You Can Help Save Lives

60 Minutes’ special investigation has the potential to end decades of needless injuries and deaths. We urge you to watch it and the ‘Extra Minutes’ at the link below - then install photoelectric smoke alarms in your home. Please help save lives by spreading this message to everyone you know. Thank you.

The World Fire Safety Foundation

Adrian Butler & Karl Westwell
Co-Founders | NSW, Australia
17 November 2014



Greg Mullins AFSM
Commissioner FRNSW
President AFAC

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

Commissioner Mullins message to all Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) staff after 60 Minutes’ special investigation.
20 October 2014



Peter Cannon, President VFFA

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

Peter Cannon, President, Volunteer Fire Fighter’s Association, NSW, Australia



The Alarming Truth
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

60 Minutes Australia Special Investigation - Oct 2014



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

“We produced all the CSIRO test evidence which shows how bad these things are in the test fire in the CSIRO laboratory . . . I can guarantee you that if photoelectric smoke alarms were mandated in homes in Australia and New Zealand that the death toll from residential fires would drop.”



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

“Well the Board is not satisfied at this stage that it needs to make any further changes to the code.”
Neil Savery | GM, ABCB

“What will it take for the Board to make that decision to save lives?”
Karl Stefanovic | 60 Minutes

WIN TV News - June 2012



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

“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 - so you’ll get your family out faster.”

WIN TV News | Dubbo, NSW, Australia
18 June 2012

Trailer | 31 seconds



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



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

The Alarming Truth

Australia: 19 Oct 2014 | New Zealand: 10 Nov 2014

Part One | 7 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."

Karl Stefanovic, Reporter | 60 Minutes Australia

Part Two | 11 Minutes



"Grab yourself the photoelectric alarms, bring them back to your home, unscrew the ionisation ones, put the photoelectric ones on the ceiling. It can save your families life."

Karl Stefanovic, 60 Minutes Reporter

David Isaac Interview | 2 Minutes



David Isaac | Fire Safety Expert & Standards Australia Committee Member FP002 (for smoke detection & warning system standards)

Karl Stefanovic Interview | 2 Minutes



Karl Stefanovic | Gold Logie-Winning Television Presenter Co-Host, Nine Network's 'Today' Breakfast Program



The Alarming Truth
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

Smoke Alarm Warning Report

After Watching the 60 Minutes story from pages 2-3,
for more information please check out this report

Smoke Alarm Warning

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



© Copyright World Fire Safety Foundation - Nov 2014

SmokeAlarmWarningV3.5VFFA.pdf Published: 07 August 2010 | Version 3.1 - Updated: 28 November 2014
Check for Latest Version: www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/vffa.html | Visit Us on FaceBook

1 of 15

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/vffa.html