

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*An In-Depth Look at US Fire Death
Rate Statistics
and the
Performance of Photoelectric and
Ionization Smoke Alarms in
Residential Fatal Fires*

CREIA Spring Conference April 25, 2012

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Skip Walker

- *ACI, ASHI Certified Inspector*
- *MCI, CREIA Master Inspector*
- *ICC Certified Residential Combination Inspector*
- *F.I.R.E. Service Certified Inspector*
- *Published 18 Articles, 4 on Smoke Alarms and CO Issues*
- *Presented to California Association of Realtors (CAR), Risk Management/Consumer Safety Committee*
- *Presented to National Association of Realtors (NAR), Risk Management/Consumer Safety Committee*
- *Interviewed by SF Chronicle for Smoke Alarm Article*

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What We Will Talk About Today:

- *US Residential Fire Death and Injury Statistics 1960-2001*
- *Statistical Data, Trends and How to Interpret the Data*
- *A Brief History of Smoke Alarms*
- *The Types of Smoke Alarms Found In Residential Use*
- *Contrast the Performance of the Different Alarm Technologies in Residential Fatal Fires*

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Important:

All the Data Used Comes From Reputable Sources
All Data Is Published & Verifiable

- *NIST National Institute for Standards and Testing*
- *NFPA National Fire Protection Association*
- *CPSC Consumer Product Safety Commission*
- *FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency*
- *UL Underwriters Laboratory*
- *Texas A&M University*
- *NFA National Fire Administration*
- *NCHS National Center for Health Statistics*
- *NIFRS National Fire Incident Reporting System*

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Let's Look At the Death/Injury Statistics and the Data Sources:

NFPA, Fire Loss Survey's and Various Study's

-Survey of 3,000 Fire Departments Nationally – Mostly Larger

NFIRS, National Fire Incident Reporting System

-Web Input System

-Voluntary Participation – Currently About 18,960 Fire Department's

-Participation Varies By State

NCHS, US Death Statistics Report

-National Records of Death Certificates

-Cause of Death Classifications Limited

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None of the Data is Perfect

They Are Estimates Only
– Not Absolutes

- Numbers Vary Between Each Source*
- Year to Year*
- Sometimes Significantly*

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NFPA and NFIRS Data:

Participation is Voluntary

Statistical Reports Include Extrapolated Data

Unknown Fire or Death Causes Are Reapportioned to Other Other Causes

Methods Used Are Sometimes Inconsistent Between Years/ Reports

Fire/Death/Injury Rates Are Estimates Only – Not Absolutes

Data Set Is Large Enough To Have A Degree Of Confidence In The Data

It Is Important to Understand the Limitations Of The Data

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NCHS, National Center for Health Statistics

US Death/Morbidity Statistics Report

The National Record of Death Certificates

Cause of Death Classifications Limited

I.e. Respiratory Failure from Smoke Inhalation

Can Be Used To Fill In Blanks From NFPA, NFIRS Data

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Caution must be used with statistical systems that allow voluntary/self-selection of participants. There is inherent bias in the statistical data. Only those that choose to participate do. Example: With NFIRS, since it is web based, only fire departments with web access can participate, etc.

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The Goal Today Is Very Simple

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That You Clearly Understand.....

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*1) That There Are Very REAL
Differences in How Different Smoke
Alarms Types Perform in Real World
Fatal Fires*

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2) That This is a Very REAL Problem.

*This Issue Directly Contributes to at
Least 1,000 Fire Deaths Per Year –
Probably More*

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3) That This is an Old Problem.

*We Have Known That These Alarms
Were Not Providing Adequate
Protection Since the Early 1980's and
Even Earlier.*

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4) That We Can Make a Difference.

*As Professional Property Inspectors,
We Are Uniquely Positioned to Have a
Very Significant Impact on Public
Awareness and Safety.*

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“This issue has more impact on the life safety of your clients than just about anything. Actually, make that just plain anything.”

Douglas Hansen

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It is Critical to Understand
One Other Important Fact.....

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There are *three* kinds of lies;
Lies, Damn Lies and **Statistics**

- *Benjamin Disraeli, British Prime Minister*

Deadly Differences

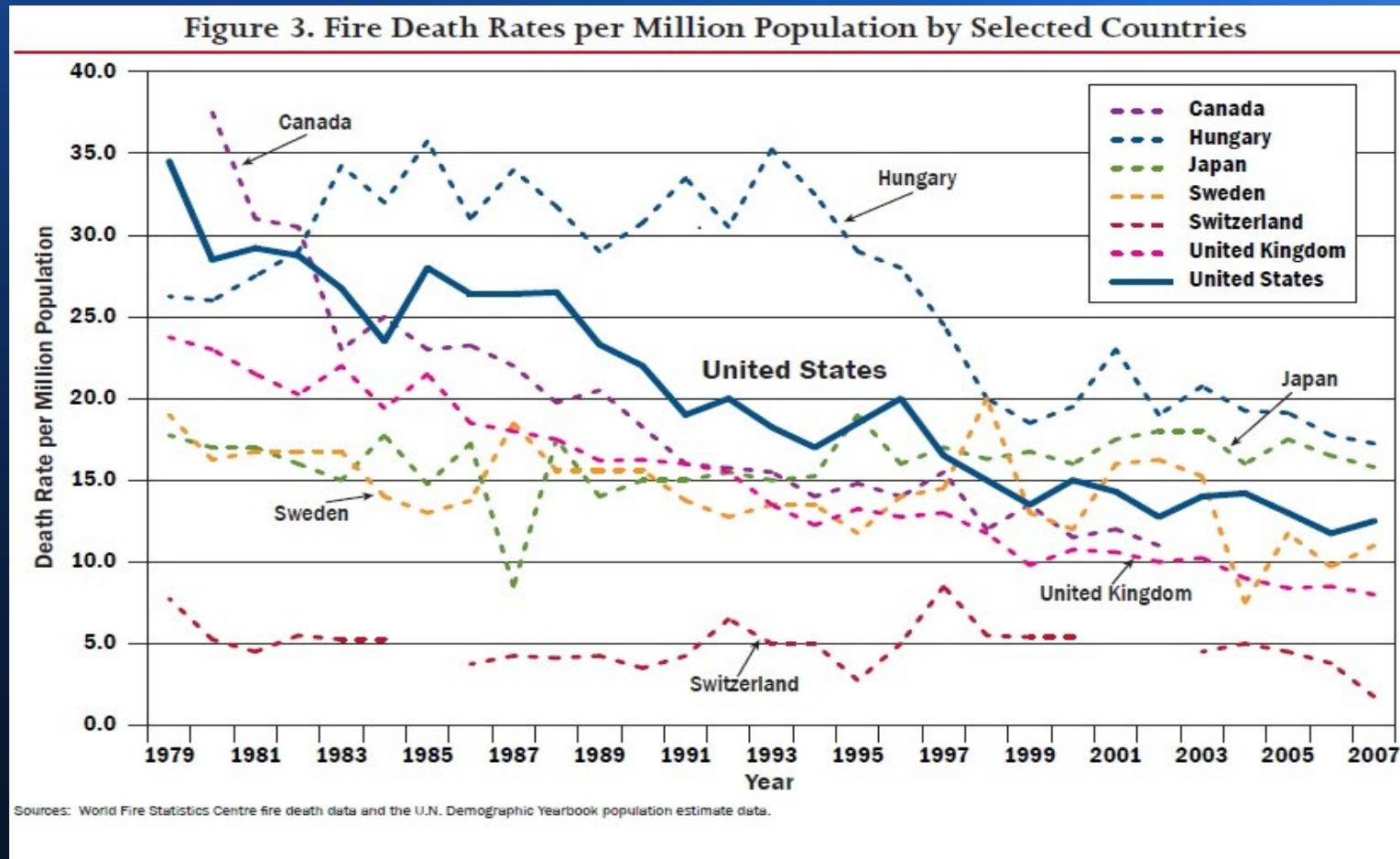
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- From a fire perspective, the US is a Third World Country
- The NYC Fire Department responds to more calls per year than all fire departments in Japan
- US Fire Death Rate per Million Population = 12.3*
- Swiss Fire Death Rate per Million Population = 2.0*
- Singapore Fire Death Rate per Million Population = 2.3*

* *Source: FEMA International Death Rate Trends 1979-2007*

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Source: FEMA Int Fire Trends 1979-2007

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Number of Households in The Us:

1960: 52 Million

1975: 72 Million

2007: 116 Million

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008

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*Number of Households in The Us
with Smoke Alarms:*

1960: Almost Zero
1977: 18 Million/22%
2007: 111 Million/96%

Source: NFPA, Smoke Alarms in US Fires 2011

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*Number of Households in The Us
with Ionization Smoke Alarms:*

*Approximately 90%-95%
100-105 Million Homes*

Source: Industry Sales Figures/Research Report Estimates

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According to estimates by the National Fire Protection Association and the U. S. Fire Administration, U. S. home usage of smoke alarms rose from less than 10 % in 1975 to at least 95 % in 2000, while the number of home fire deaths was cut nearly in half. Thus the home smoke alarm is credited as the greatest success story in fire safety in the last part of the 20th century, because it alone represented a highly effective fire safety technology with leverage on most of the fire death problem that went from only token usage to nearly universal usage in a remarkably short time. Other highly effective fire safety technologies either affect a smaller share of the fire death problem (e.g., child-resistant lighter, cigarette-resistant mattress or upholstered furniture) or have yet to see more than token usage (e.g., home fire sprinkler, reduced ignition-strength cigarette).

*Performance of Home Smoke Alarms
NIST Technical Note 1455-1
February 2008 Revision*

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Performance of Home Smoke Alarms
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In 1980:

*"We put 50 million smoke detectors in buildings in America in a two year period and our fire loss and death rate goes up. **We're having a little trouble explaining these things.**"*

Gordon Vickery, former head of the US. Fire Administration

Source: Fire engineering magazine, September 1980

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“I estimate that at least 10,000-15,000 people have died unnecessarily in smoldering house fires since 1990 because they relied on ionization detectors.”

Jay Fleming, Deputy Fire Chief , Boston, MA.

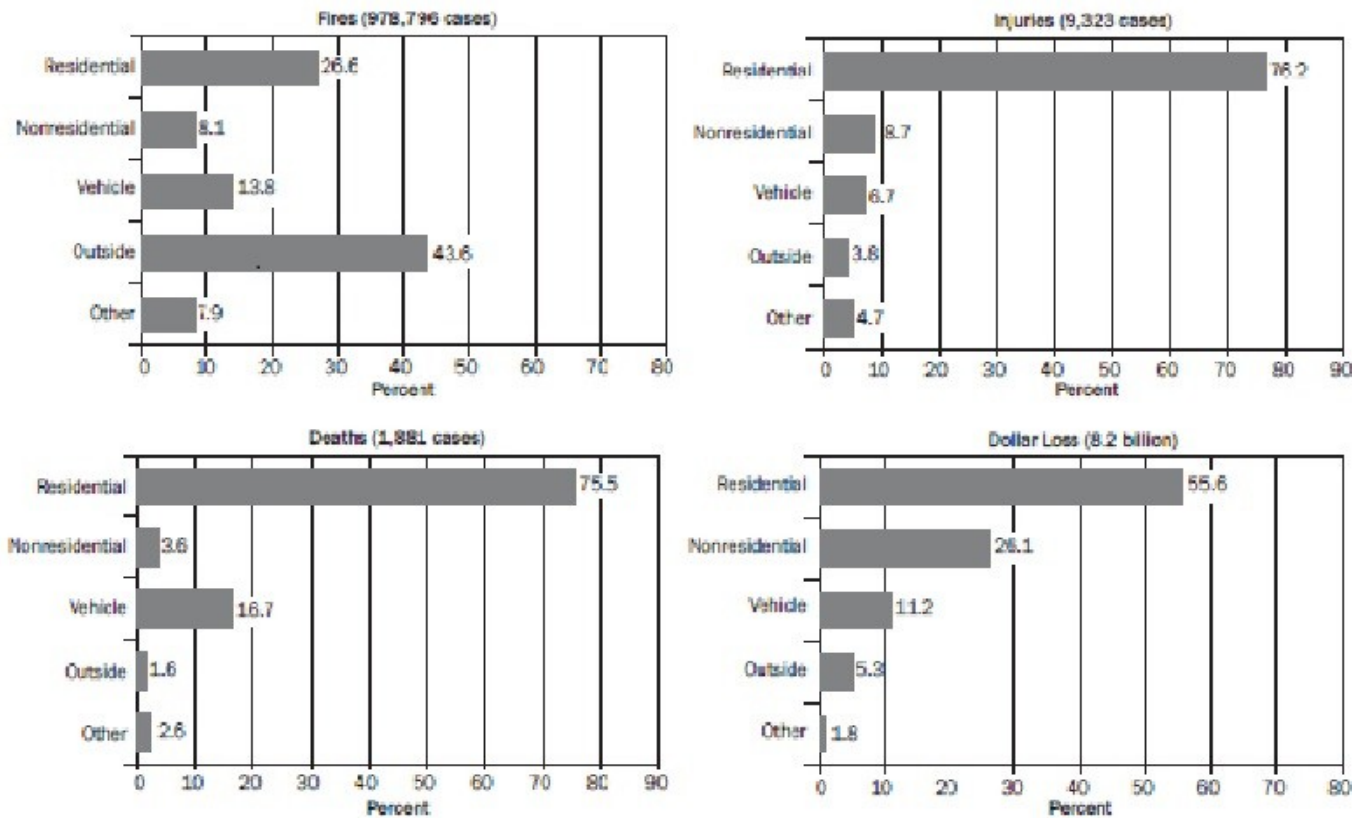
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*Let's Look Closer at Residential Fires,
Where They Start
When They Start
How They Start
And The Consequences*

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Figure 19. Fire and Fire Losses by General Property Type (2007)



Source: NFIRS.

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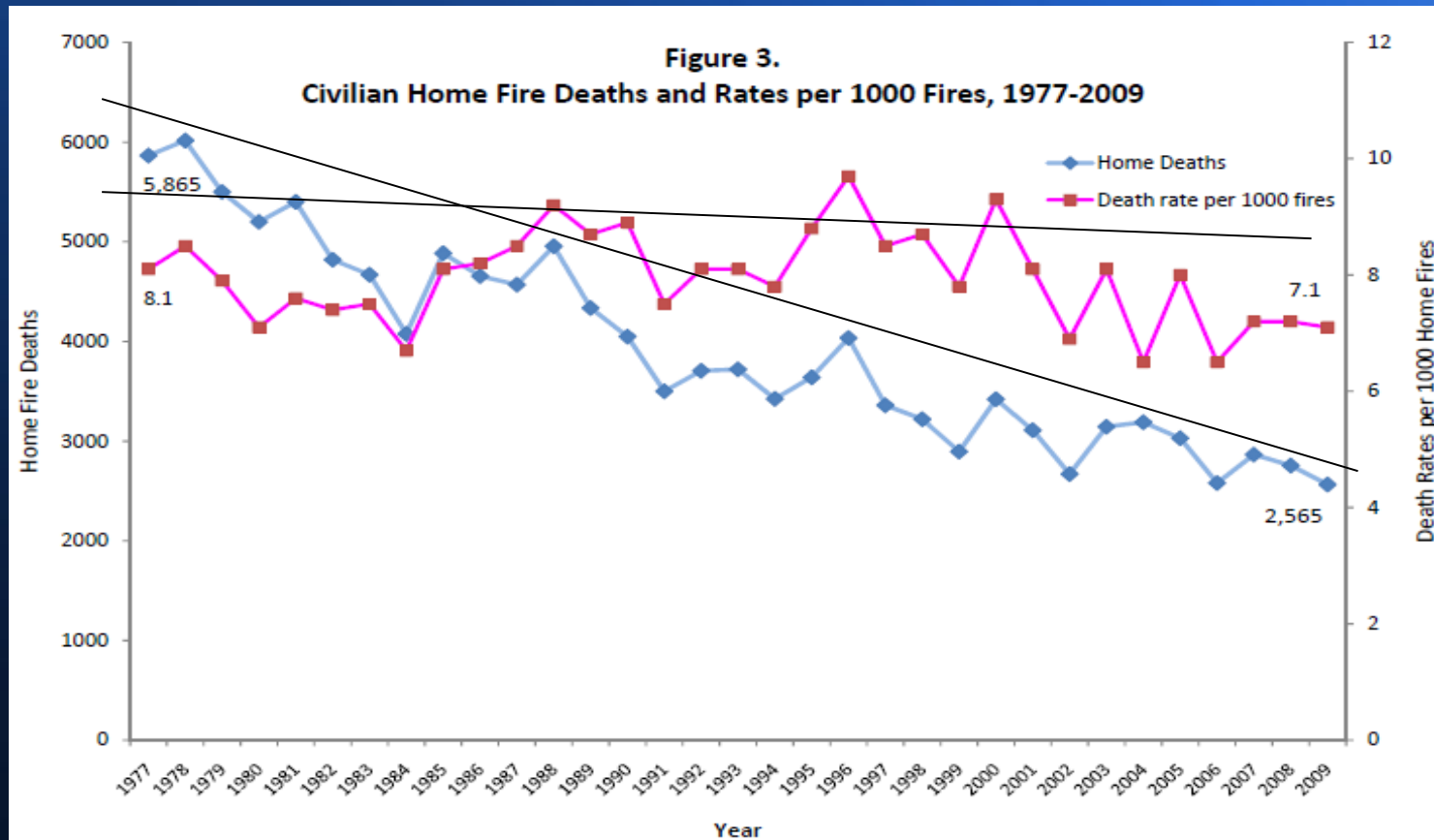
- Most US Fire Deaths Occur at Home = 75.5%*
- Most US Fire Injuries Occur at Home = 76.2%*
- Most of Local Fire Prevention Budgets Are Spent on Commercial
 - Commercial = 99% (Estimate)
 - Residential = 1% (Estimate)

* *Source: NFIRS 2007*

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US Home Fire Deaths and Rate Per 1,000



Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009

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Overall for the 1977-2009 period, the number of home fire deaths decreased from 5,865 in 1977 to 2,565 in 2009 for a decrease of 56%. The number of home fire incidents also declined steadily for an overall decrease of 50% for the same period. *When the death rate per 1,000 home fire incidents is looked at (Figure 3), there is no steady decline, but rather the rate fluctuates considerably up and down. In fact, the death rate per 1,000 home fires was 8.1 in 1977 and 7.1 in 2009 for a decrease of 12%.* These results suggest that even though the number of home fires and home fire deaths declined similarly during the period, the death rate did not, and when there is a home fire, *the fire death rate risk has not changed much for the period.*

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009 / Pg 7-8

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1977-2009 Fire deaths decreased from **5,865** to **2,565** a decrease of **56%**

1977-2009 The number of home fire incidents decreased of **50%**

There is a decline death rate per 1,000 home fire of 12% for same period from 8.1 to 7.1

“Even though the number of home fires and home fire deaths declined similarly during the period, the death rate did not”

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009

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When there is a home fire,
**the fire death rate risk has not changed
much for the period.**

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009 / Pg 7-8

Yet Between 1977 and 2009 Hundreds of Millions of Residential Smoke Alarms Were Installed in the US.

*In 1977, Around 22% of Homes Had At Least One Alarm
By 2009 Around 96% of Homes Have At Least One Alarm*

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009/US Home Fires 2011

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- 1977: Fires: 5,865 / Deaths / 1,000: 8.1
- 2009: Fires: 2,565 / Deaths / 1,000: 7.1
- Variance in Deaths, Per 1,000 Over 1977-2009

High Approx 10
Low Approx 6.5

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009

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For Every One Residential Fire Death
Approximately Five People Are Injured

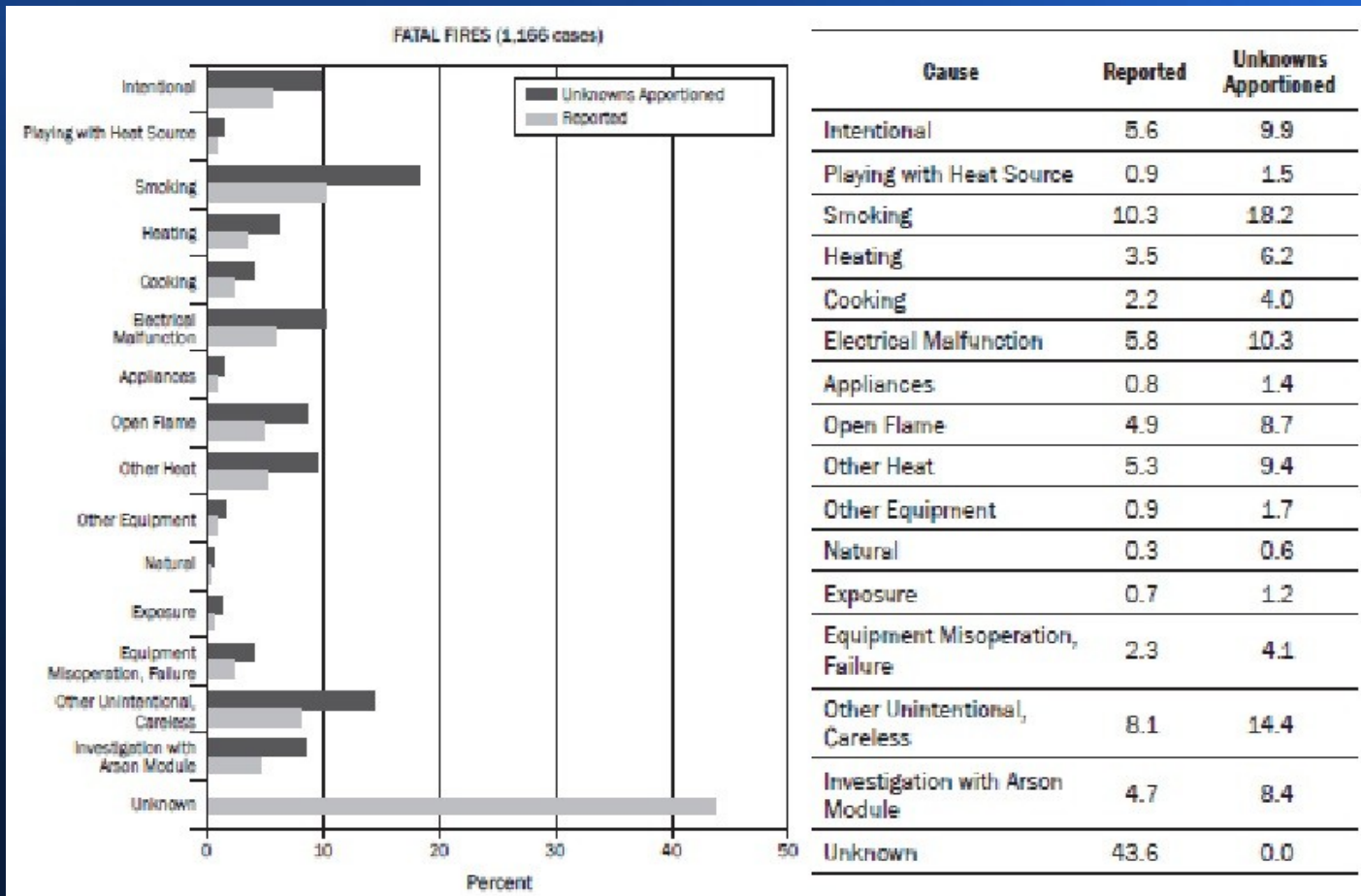
- Many Injured Are Maimed/Scarred, Have Permanent Respiratory Damage, Etc
- Injuries In Apartment Fires Are Higher – Roughly Nine to Ten Injuries Per Death

Source: NFPA Fire Loss 2009

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Fatal Fires By Source/Type from NFPA 2007 Fire Loss Study



Note: Dark Bar Is Unknown Fire Type - 43% Is Reapportioned to Know Types

Cooking/Open Flame Fires Estimated At 12.7%

Smoking Estimated at 18.2%

Heating & Other Heat ncludes Space Heaters At 15.6 %

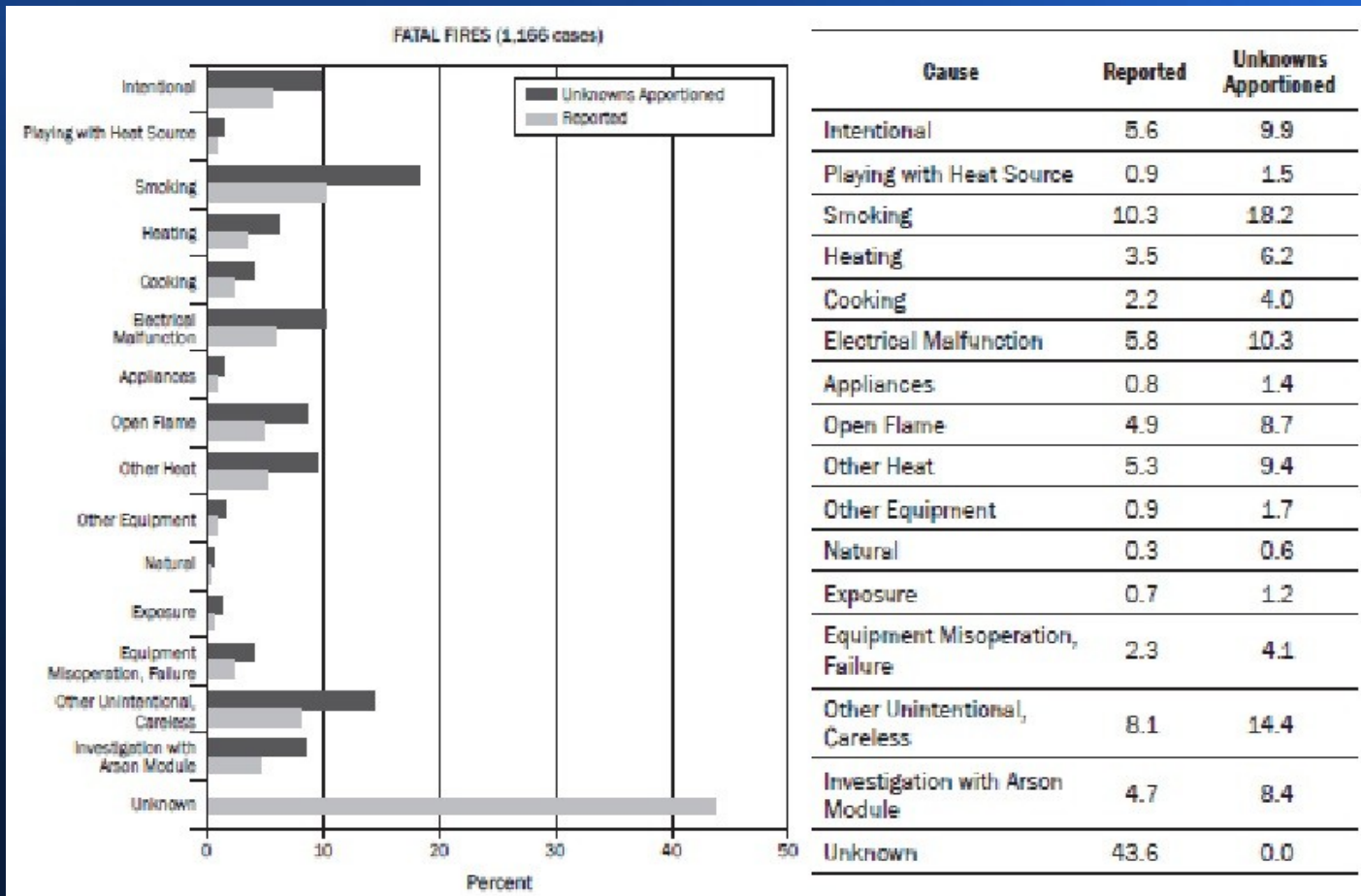
Other Careless At 14.4%

Source: NFPA Fire Loss Study

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Fire Injuries By Source/Type from NFPA 2007 Fire Loss Study



*Note: Dark Bar Is Unknown Fire Type
43% Is Reapportioned to Know Types*

Cooking/Open Flame Fires Estimated At 36.5%

Smoking Estimated at 7%

Heating & Other Heat includes Space Heaters At 11.9 %

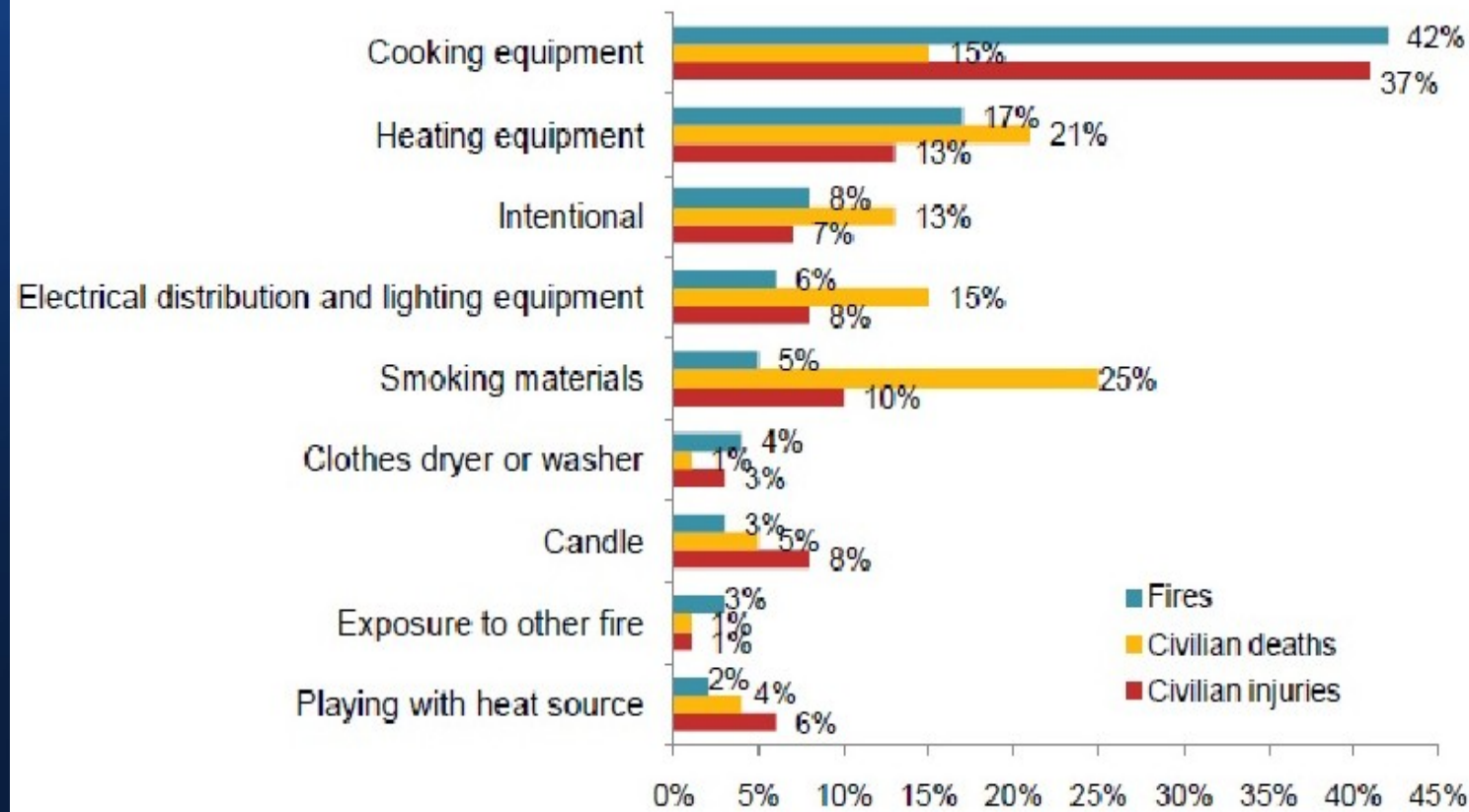
Other Careless At 11.3%

Source: NFPA Fire Loss Study

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Leading Causes of Home Structure Fires: 2005-2009



Cooking/Open Flame Fires Estimated At 42% of Fires/15% of Deaths/37% of Injury

Smoking Estimated at 5% of Fires/25% of Deaths/10% of Injuries

Heating & Other Heat includes Space Heaters At 12% of Fires/21% of Deaths/13% of Injuries

Electrical 6% of Fires/15% of Deaths/6% of Injuries

Source: NFPA Home Structure Fires 2011

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- Cooking Fires Generally Open Flame/Fast Flame Fires
- Account For Largest Portion of Injuries but a Smaller Portion of Deaths
- Injured Person Is Generally “Intimate” With Fire
 - Intimate = Present
- Injuries Related to Suppressing Fire or Grease Etc
- Some Argue That Smoke Alarms Offer No Protection Since You Don't Need It To Tell You That Your Stove Is On Fire If You Are Cooking

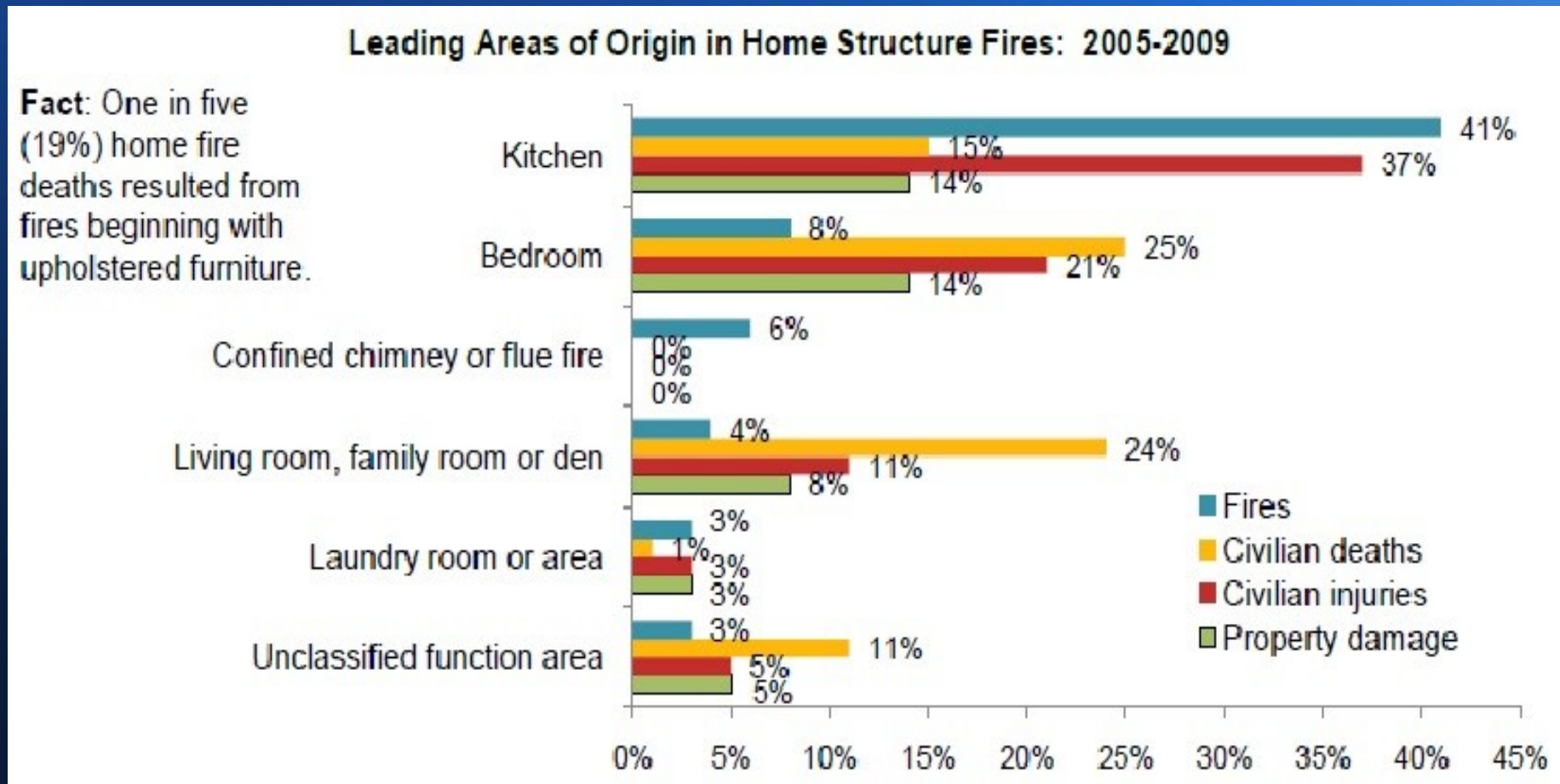
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- Smoking/Heater/Electrical Related Fires = Smoldering Fires
- Accounts For Largest Portion of Deaths and Smaller Portion of Injuries
- Injured Person Is Generally Unaware of Fire
- Injuries Related to Slow Exit, Smoke Inhalation, Return/Heroics, Etc

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Source: NFPA Home Structure Fires 2011

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- Kitchen Fires Account For:
 - 41% of Fires
 - 15% of Deaths
 - 37% of Injuries

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- Living Room/Family Room/Den/Bedroom Fires Account For:
 - 12% of Fires
 - 49% of Deaths
 - 32% of Injuries

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Roughly **1 Out of Every 5** Deadly Fires
Started in Upholstered Furniture

These Are Almost ALL Smoldering Fires

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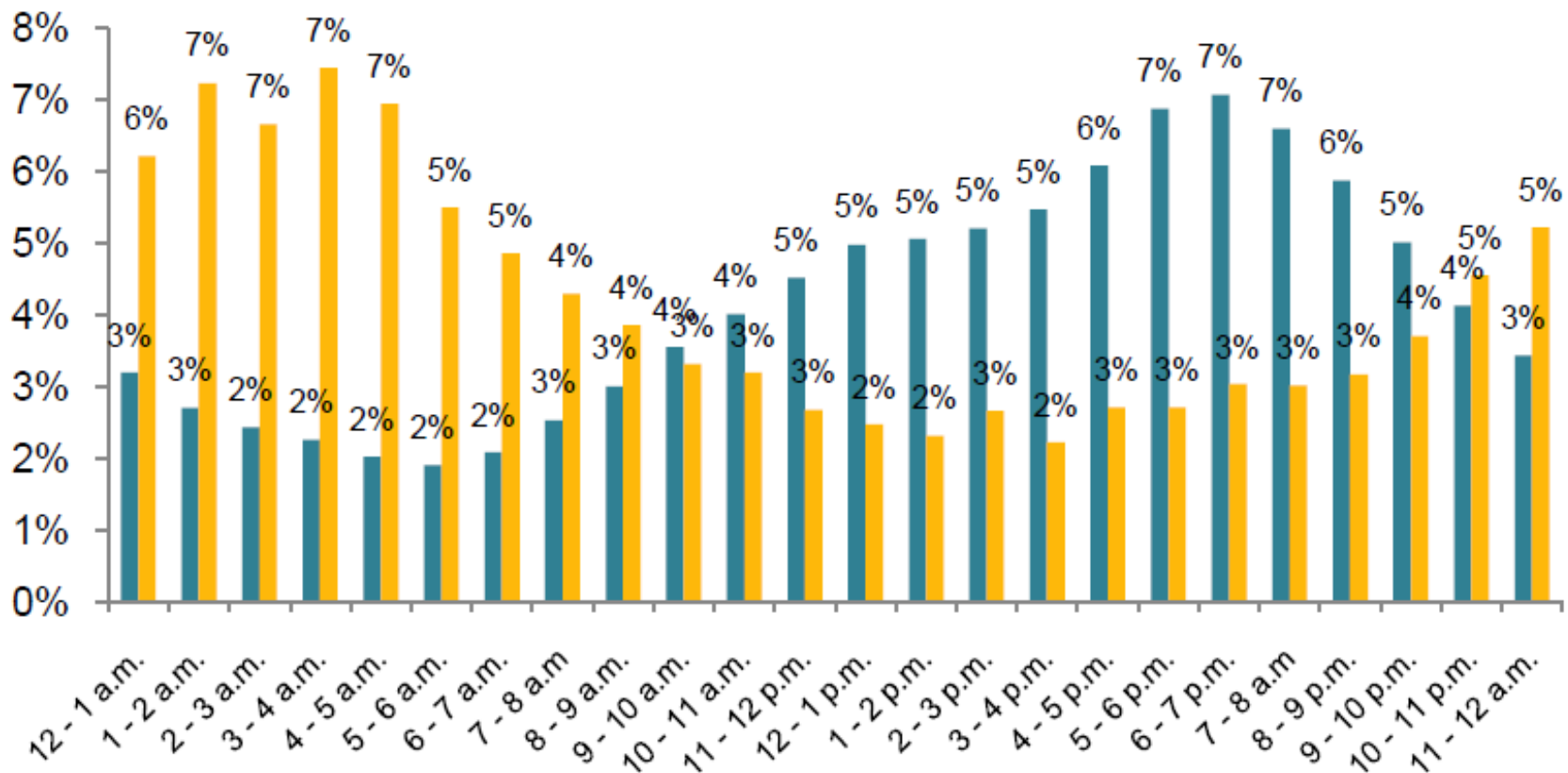
Other Deadly Fire Criteria

- Smoking is Leading Fatal Fire Cause
- Time of Day Matters
- Age Plays a Strong Role
- Location – Death Rates Vary By State

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Figure 6. Home Structure Fires by Alarm Time: 2005-2009



Source: NFPA Home Structure Fires 2011

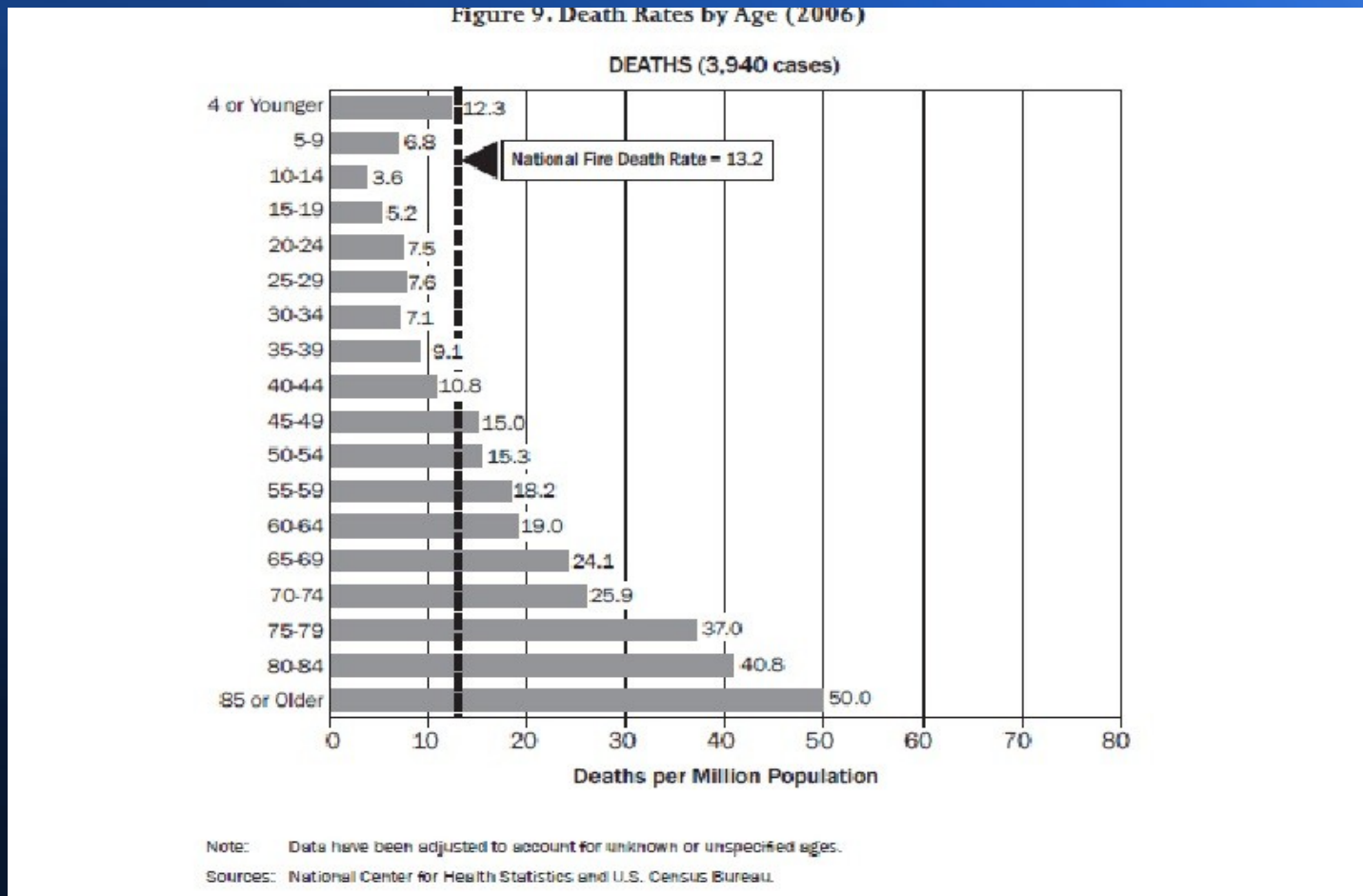
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Time of Day Matters

- 37% of Fires Occur Between 8 PM & 8 AM
- 66% of Fire Deaths Occur Between 8 PM & 8 AM

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Source: NCHS/US Census Bureau

Deadly Differences

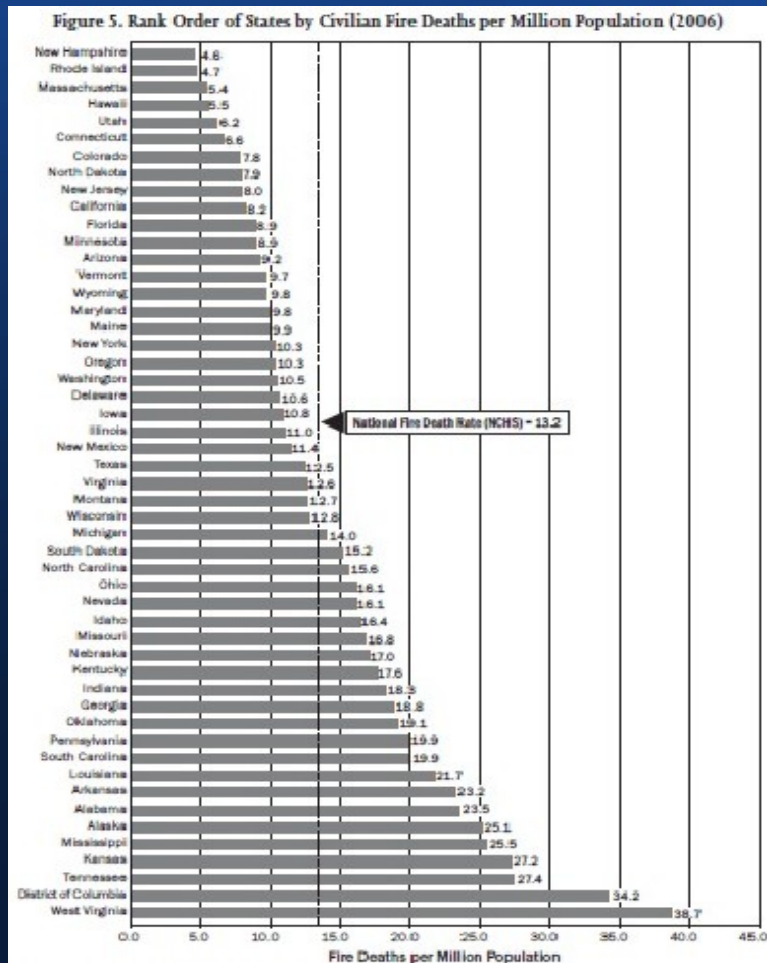
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Age Impacts Survival Rate

- National Average Death Rate = 13.2/Million
- Children 4 or Younger at Risk = 12.3/Million
 - That Is 2x-3x The Rate for 5-14 Years Old
- “Older” Folks = 65+ Highest Risk
 - 85+ Highest Risk = 50/Million

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*New Hampshire = 4.6 Fire Deaths Per Million
Rhode Island = 4.7 Fire Deaths Per Million*

*California = 8.2
Minnesota = 8.9*

Illinois = 11.0

Wisconsin = 12.8

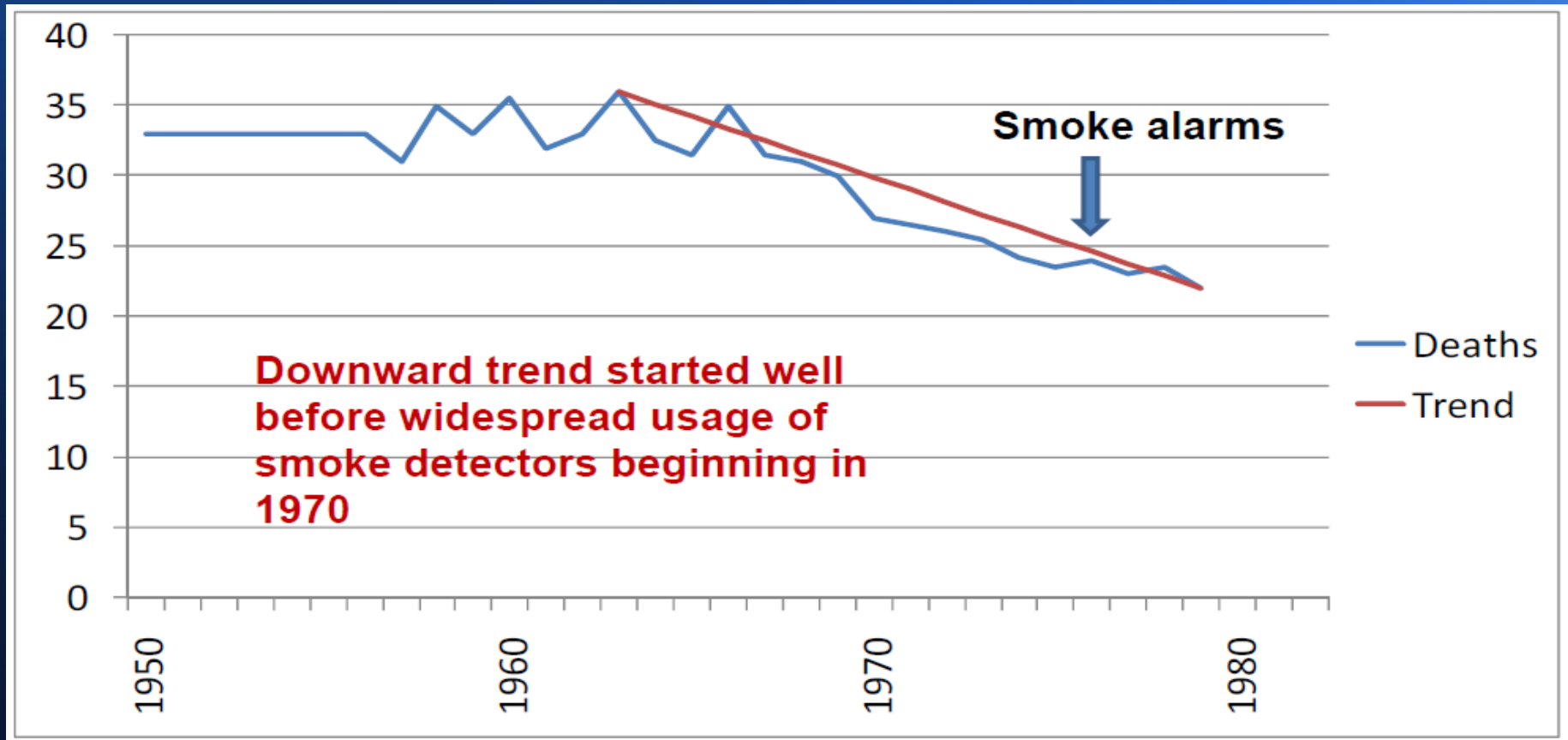
National Average = 13.2 Per NCHS

*Beware:
District of Columbia = 34.2
West Virginia = 38.7*

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Fire Deaths Per Million Population 1950-1980



Source: National Safety Council

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The Bottom Line:

There Are Fewer Fire Deaths
Because There Are Fewer Fires.....
There Are *Many* Reasons For The Decline

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Factors Contributing to Reduction in Residential Fires:

- **Significant reduction in people who smoke**
- **Fire retardants have been added to mattresses and furniture**
- **Building codes and inspections have improved**
- **Improvements in electrical wiring and fire related construction**
- **Home-heating deaths have decreased by over 70%**
- **Dramatic increase in full spectrum burn centers**
- **Firefighters Use of SCBA**

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Significant Reduction in People That Smoke:

Smoking Population 1970 : **37.4%***

Versus

Smoking Population 2010: **19.3%***

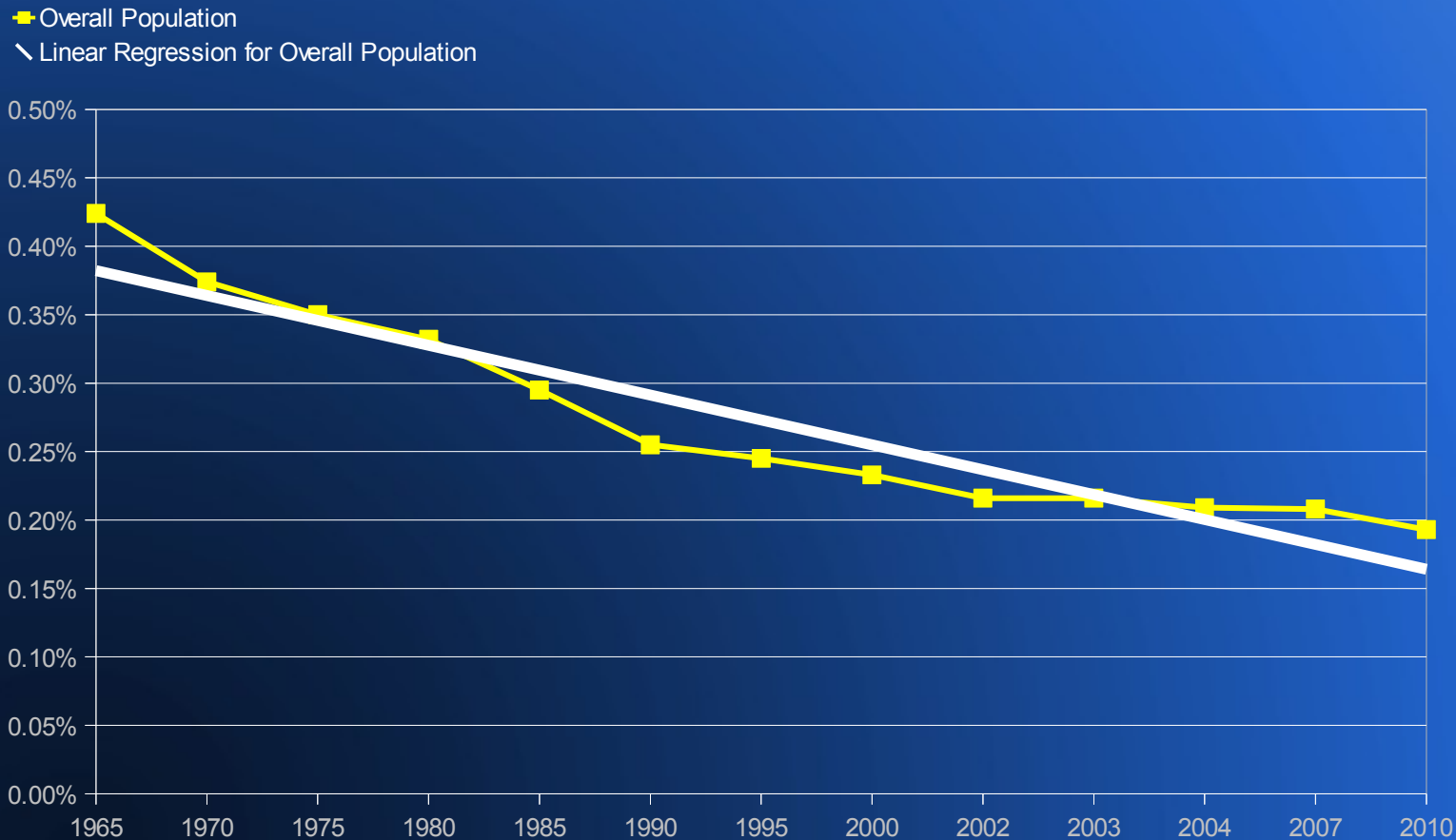
Decrease of 48.4%

Sources: * US Center for Disease Control (CDC)

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Estimated Smokers In US – Overall Population



Source: US Center for Disease Control

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Fires Involving People That Smoke:

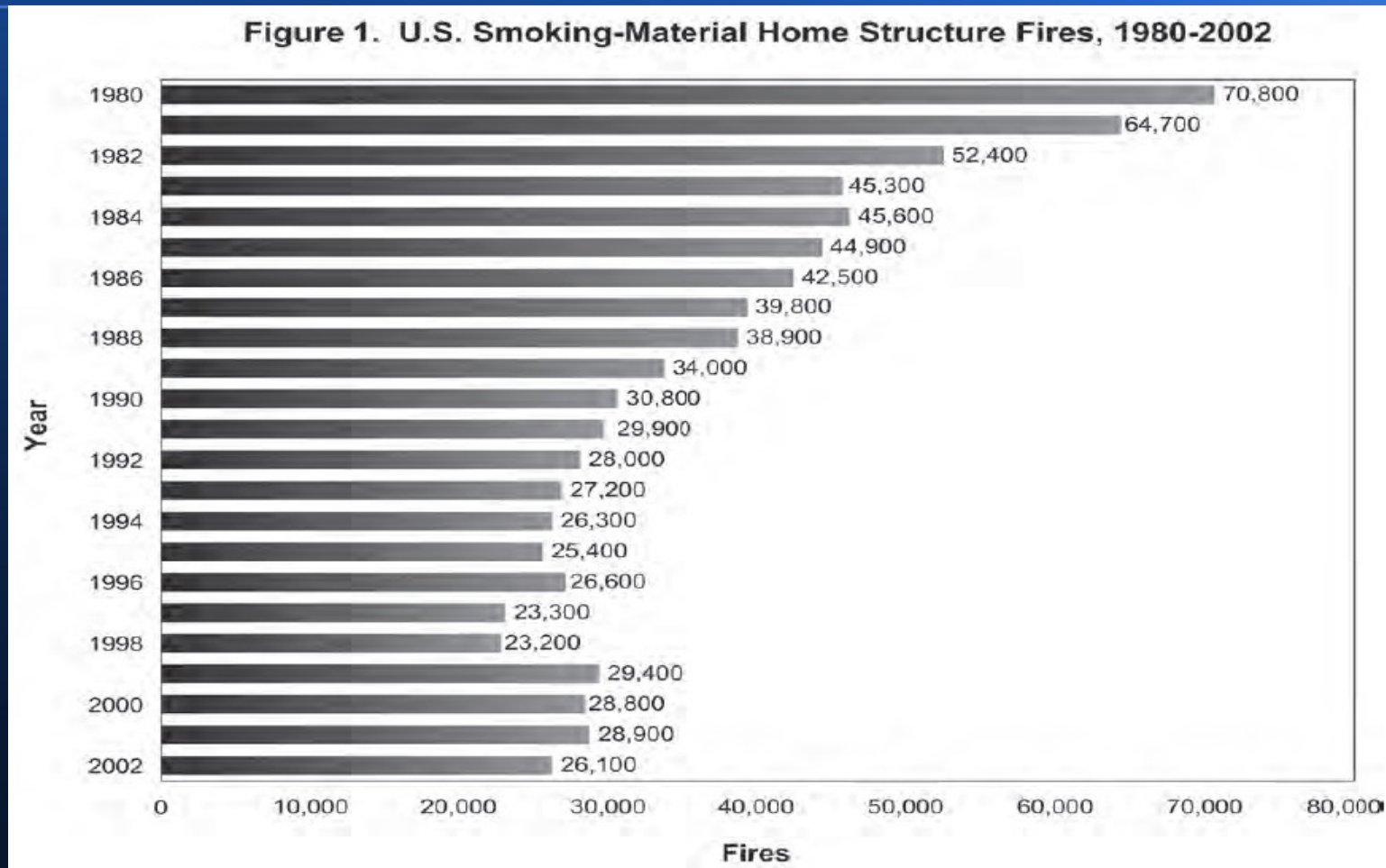
Smoking Related Fire Victims Are 3x More Likely to Be Intimate with Fire

- ✦ Proximity to Fire Means Less Likely to Be Saved By Smoke Alarms, Etc
- ✦ Most Smoking Fires and 2/3's of Deaths Involve Trash, Mattresses, Bedding, Upholstered Furniture
- ✦ In Smoking Fires – 25% of Victims Were Not The Smoker
- ✦ 34% of Other Victims Were Children
- ✦ 25% Were Neighbors (From Adjacent Units) or Friends
- ✦ 14% Were Spouses

Sources: US Fire Administration "Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Related Fires" FA-302 Feb 2006

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Sources: US Fire Administration "Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Related Fires" FA-302 Feb 2006

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Fire Retardants Added to Mattresses, Furniture. Etc:

Long-Term Impact Fire Retardants Seen in Rising Number of Fires Beginning with Ignition Other than Upholstered Furniture, Mattresses, or Bedding

Fatal Smoking Fires **NOT** Starting in Upholstered Furniture, Mattresses, or Bedding:

- **15%** of Total in 1980
- **20%** of Total in 1990
- **29%** of Total in 2000

Sources: US Fire Administration "Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Related Fires" FA-302 Feb 2006

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Improved Building Codes and Inspections:

- Additional Requirements for Fire-Blocking, Draft-Stopping
- Separation Requirements Between Heavy Fire Load Areas and Living Spaces
- Generally More Sophisticated Inspectors

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Improvements in Electrical Wiring & Fire Related Construction:

- 90% of Electrical Fires Occur in Homes That Are 10 Years Old or Older (NFPA 73)
- Better Understanding of Fire Progression

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Home-heating deaths have decreased by over 70%:

- Safer Gas and Electric Heat Appliances
- Safety Devices on Portable Electric Heaters, etc

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Dramatic Increase in Full Spectrum Burn Centers:

1975: 12 Full Spectrum Burn Care Units in US

1999: 100 Burn Care Units with 25 Full Spectrum Burn Care Units

“On a yearly basis, deaths, once the victim has been placed into the burn care system, have decreased from around 4,000 to 1,000.”

Source: FEMA: America Burning: Re commissioned, May 2000

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Firefighters Use of SCBA:

“It has been my personal experience that Fire Fighters SCBA has made a significant contribution to victims survival rate.”

**SCBA = Self Contained Breathing Apparatus*

Source: Photoelectric & Ionization Smoke Alarms Re-Visited
Jay Fleming, Deputy Fire Chief, Boston MA, Dec 2010

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Let's Look At Smoke Alarms

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Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Brief History of Smoke Alarms:*

1929: Walter Kidde Obtains First UL Listing for Shipboard Smoke Detector

1955: First Fire Alarms – Uses Heat Cue

1960's-1970's: Studies Determine That Smoke Sensors More Effective Than Heat

1965: First Single-Station Smoke Alarm – 120 VAC Photoelectric

1967: NFPA Founded

1970: First 9 Volt Powered Single Station Alarm Invented – Ionization Type

Mid-1970's: Smoke Alarm Sales Accelerate

1976: NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code Requires Smoke Alarms in Single Family Homes

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Brief History of Smoke Alarms:*

1973-1979: Model Codes Require Smoke Alarms in 1 & 2 Unit Dwellings

Mid-1970's: FHA/VA Require Smoke Alarms to Qualify for Funding

1976: UL 217 Smoke Alarm Test Developed

1977: Indiana Dunes Smoke Alarm Tests Conducted

1978: NFPA 74 Requires Every Level Coverage

1980: Half of US Homes Have at Least One Smoke Alarm

1982: Two-Thirds of US Homes Have at Least One Smoke Alarm

1984: Three-Quarters of US Homes Have at Least One Smoke Alarm

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Brief History of Smoke Alarms:*

1984: Model Codes Require One Alarm Per Level

1985: UL 217 Sensitivity Level Lowered to Reduce Nuisance Tripping

1988: Model Codes Begin Requiring Smoke Alarms in Bedrooms and Interconnected in New Construction

1989: NFPA 74 Requires Smoke Alarms to Be Interconnected in New Construction

1993: NFPA 72 Requires Smoke Alarms in Bedrooms in New Construction

1995: 10 Year Lithium Battery Smoke Alarm Introduced

1999: NFPA 72 Requires Replacement of Smoke Alarms After 10 Years

2009: Homes with at Least One Smoke Alarm - Approximately 95%

**Primary Source: White Paper, Private/Public Fire Safety Council, April 2006*

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Smoke Alarms/Detectors in Residential Construction

Smoke Detector:

Sensor Only, Connected to a Central System with Separate Annunciator/Horn

Smoke Alarm:

Single Station, Sensor and Annunciator/Horn in Single Package

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Smoke Alarms/Detectors in Residential Construction

*In Residential Construction, The Two Smoke Alarm Sensor
Technology Types Most Commonly Found Are:*

Ionization

Photoelectirc

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Ionization Alarms:

Most Prevalent Alarm Sensor Type in US Market

Approximately 95% of Single Station Alarm Installations

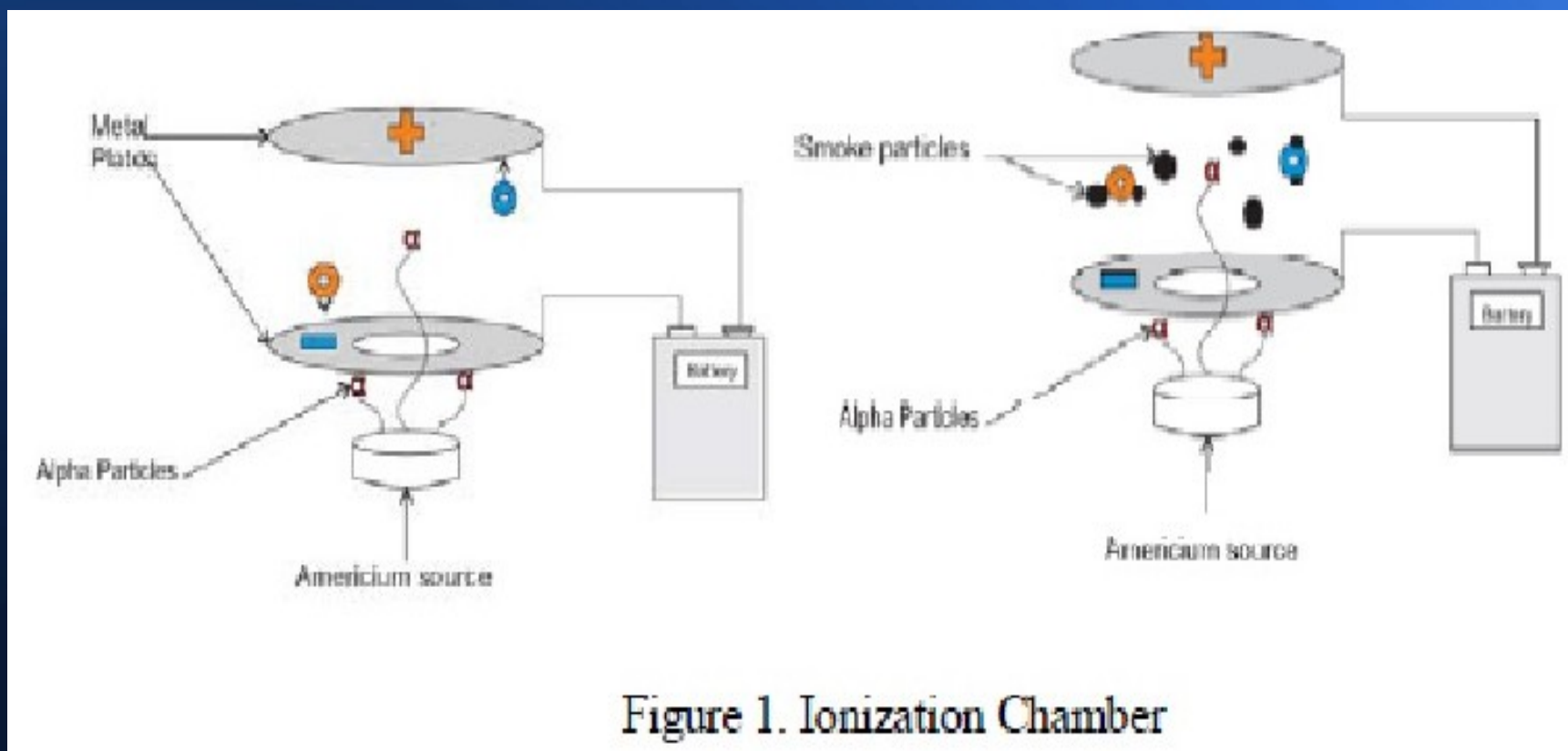
Uses a Small Amount of Radioactive Material to Charge Air, Particles in Air Disrupt Current Flow and Set Off Alarm

Detects Small Particle Sizes Well, .3 Micron and Less

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Ionization Alarms:



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Photoelectric Smoke Alarms:

In US Market, Low Market Share

Approximately 5% (Estimate) of Single Station Alarms

Uses an LED Light Source and Sensor

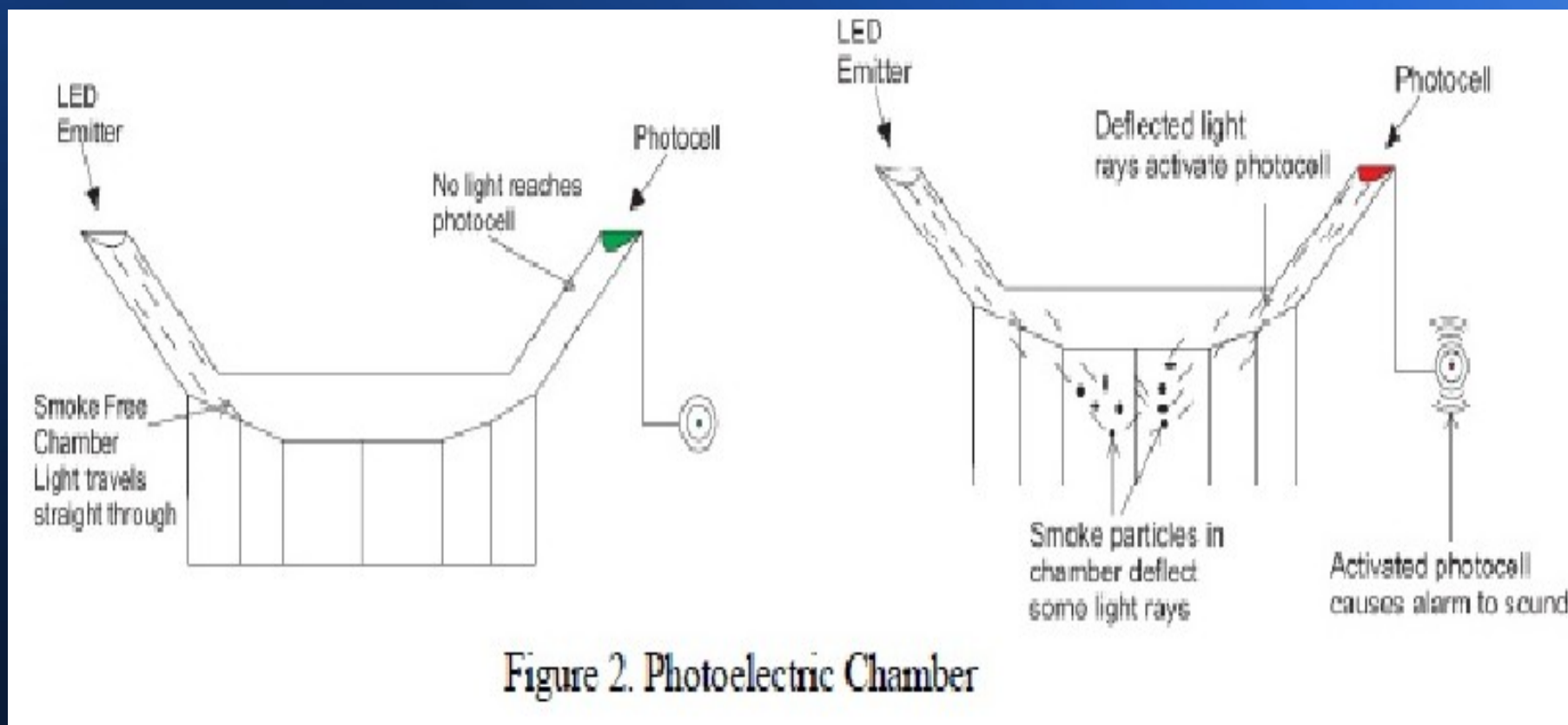
Smoke Particles in Air Scatter Light onto Sensor and Set Off Alarm

Detects Larger Particles Best, .5 Micron and Up

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Photoelectric Smoke Alarms:



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Differences Between Alarm Sensor Types:

Ionization:

Detects Small, Fast Moving Particles Best

Poor at Detecting Large, Slow Moving Particles

Color and Density – Realatively Insensitive

Nuisance Tripping: High

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Differences Between Alarm Sensor Types:

Photoelectric:

Detects Medium/Large Particles Best

Less Sensitive to Small Fast Moving Particles

Color and Density – Insensitive to Colorless, Low
Sensitivity to Black Particles, Detects Smoke Density
Well

Nuisance Tripping: Low

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Fire Types:

Fast Flame Fires:

Flames Visible, Short Duration

Found in Cooking Fires, Accelerant Based Fires, Last Stage Smoldering Fires

Generates Small Fast Moving Particles

Alarm Test Used: UL 217

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Fire Types:

Smoldering Fires:

No Flames Visible, Long Duration

Found in Smoking Fires, Electrical Fires, Heating Fires, Upholstered Furniture

Generates Medium/Large Slow Moving Particles

Alarm Test Used: UL 268

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Tenability Criteria:

Tenability, An Estimate of When the Environment Becomes Too Hazardous to Safely Allow Egress

NIST Smoke Alarm Tests Used the Following Criteria for Tenability:

Temperature: Greater Than 88° C/**190° F**

CO Gas Concentration: Range: **.02%-.03%**

Smoke Obscuration: O.D.* Less Than/Equal to **.25/M**

**O.D. = Optical Density*

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Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Some Terms/Acronyms Used in Test Results:

ASET = Available Safe Egress Time

RSET = Remaining Safe Egress Time

Untenable = Condition Will Not Support Life Without Special Equipment

Flashover = Simultaneous Ignition of Combustible Materials In an Enclosed Area

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*Now Let's Take Look at A Number of
NIST/NFPA/UL/University/Canadian/UK/Norwegian
Tests and Results Comparing the Performance of
Ionization and Photoelectric Alarms Under Various Fire
Conditions*

This is Where the Rubber Hits the Road.....

Deadly Differences **Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**

20+ Studies/TestsArticles over a 30 year period

All Published and Available for Review

Reputable Sources

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Important Facts to Keep in Mind:

Cooking/Fast Flame Fires Account for:

42% of Fires, 37% of Injuries and 15% of Deaths

Smoldering Fires Account for:

23% of Fires, 29% of Injuries and 61% of Deaths

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Important Facts to Keep in Mind:

Nearly Two-Thirds of All Residential Fatalities Occur In Homes With Either No Alarm or Non-Functional Alarms

US Homes with No Smoke Alarm Installed – About 4%

That Means That 96% of No Functional Alarm Fire Deaths Occur in Homes with Smoke Alarms That Are Not Functional

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Important Facts to Keep in Mind:

UL 217 Flaming Test:

Alarm Must Trigger at .5%-4.0%/ft O.D.

Alarm Must Trigger Within 240 sec

Induced Air Flow Across Alarm at 32/fpm – 1.6M/s

UL 268 Non-Flaming Test:

Alarm Must Trigger at .5%-10.0%/ft O.D.

Note: O.D. = Optical Density

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>LA Fire Department</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>1960</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>N/A</i> |
| <i>Comments: Test comparing Heat Detectors to Older Photoelectric Technology</i> | |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: National Research Council of Canada

Year: 1963

Used Synthetic Material: N/A

Duration of Smoldering Test: N/A

Comments: Study with no testing. Used judgement to estimate potential effectiveness of detectors

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>Bloomington Mn Fire Depart</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>1969</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>N/A</i> |
| <i>Comments: Remote Smoke Detectors Better than Heat Detectors. Used Older Technology</i> | |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency:

Japan Housing Corp

Year:

1974

Used Synthetic Material:

Unknown

Duration of Smoldering Test:

Unknown

Comments: Smoke Detectors Better than Heat Detectors. Used New Photo Technology

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>Factory Mutual Study (Heskestad)</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>1974</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>> 30 Mins</i> |
| <i>Comments:</i> | <i>Ion Good for Flaming/Bad for Smoldering Photo Good for Smoldering/Bad for Flaming</i> |
| | <i>Ion Flaws Inherent/Not Fixable</i> |
| | <i>Photo Flaw Fixable by Correcting Smoke Entry Issues – Was Fixed in Early 80's</i> |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Indiana Dunes Test

Year: 1976

Used Synthetic Material: No

Duration of Smoldering Test: > 30 Mins

Comments: Smoke Detectors Better Than Heat Detectors, One Per Level Desirable

Note: Dunes Test Was Actually Three Separate Tests

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Massachusetts Analysis of Dunes Test

Year: 1976

Used Synthetic Material: N/A

Duration of Smoldering Test: N/A

*Comments: Analysis of Dunes Data Only - A Detector Per Level
Will Provide 3 Min Escape Time 89% of Time*

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Edmonton Fire Dept Test

Year: 1976

Used Synthetic Material: Unknown

Duration of Smoldering Test: > 60 Mins

Comments: Both Ion and Photo improve life safety/survival rates

In smoldering fires, Ion's may go off too late

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>Minneapolis Fire Dept Test</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>1978</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>< 10 Mins</i> |
| <i>Comments:</i> | <i>Both Ion and Photo's gave good early warning if smoke could reach detector</i> |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>Cal Chiefs/LA Fire Dept Test</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>1978</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>Yes – Modern Furniture Used</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>> 30 Mins</i> |
| <i>Comments:</i> | <i>Smoke Detectors More Reliable than Heat Detectors. NIST Concluded Both Adequate. LAFD & IAFC Favored Photo's Based on Results</i> |
| <i>Note:</i> | <i>IAFC = International Association of Fire Chiefs</i> |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: ***UK Fire Res Station Test***

Year: ***1978***

Used Synthetic Material: ***Yes***

Duration of Smoldering Test: ***> 30 Mins***

Comments: ***Both Ion & Photo Smoke Detectors Respond Rapidly to Flaming Fires. *Ion's Were Not Adequate in Smoldering Fires****

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Australian Dept of Housing & Construction Test

Year: 1979

Used Synthetic Material: Unkown

Duration of Smoldering Test: Flaming Fire

Comments: All Smoke Detectors Better than Heat Detectors in Flaming Fires

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Australian Smoldering Test – Pub in Fire Tech Mag

Year: 1986

Used Synthetic Material: Yes

Duration of Smoldering Test: < 10 Mins

Comments: Photo's Provide Adequate Escape Times in Most Fires. Ion's Generally Inadequate Escape Times

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Norwegian Fire Research Lab Study

Year: 1993

Used Synthetic Material: Yes

Duration of Smoldering Test: > 30 Mins

Comments: Reasons to Inadequate Ion's Are Inadequate for Smoldering Fires. Ion's Only 15-20 Sec Better Than Photo's in Flaming Fires. Advantage Only Beneficial in Extraordinary Circumstances

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: ***Texas A&M Risk Analysis of Res Fire Detector Performance***

Year: ***1995***

Used Synthetic Material: ***N/A – Analysis of Prior Data***

Comments: ***Took Previous Major Studies plus Texas A&M 2 1/2 Year Fire Simulation Study. Built a Risk Model to Estimate Failure to Alarm Rates Based on Fire Incident Reports/Types and Smoke Alarm Types***

Deadly Differences **Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**

*Texas A&M Risk Analysis of
Residential Fire Detector Performance*

Final Texas A&M Report Conclusions:

*Ionization Alarm **Smoldering** Fatality Rates: **55.80%***

*Photoelectric Alarm **Smoldering** Fatality Rates: **4.06%***

***Meaning About 45% in Homes with Ionization Alarms
Survive***

While 96% in Homes with Photoelectric Alarms Survive

Deadly Differences Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*Texas A&M Risk Analysis of
Residential Fire Detector Performance*

Final Texas A&M Report Conclusions:

*Ionization Alarm **Flaming** Failure Rates: 19.80%*

*Photoelectric Alarm **Flaming** Failure Rates: 3.99%*

***Meaning About 80.2% in Homes with Ionization Alarms
Survive***

While 96% in Homes with Photoelectric Alarms Survive

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: UK Smoke Alarms in Typ Dwelling – Part I

Year: 1997

Used Synthetic Material: Yes

Duration of Smoldering Test: > 30 Mins

Comments: Ion's Cannot Be Guaranteed to Detect Smoldering Fires. Ion's Better Than Photo's in Flaming Fires. Advantage Could be Critical

Note: Fires Smoldered > 30 Mins

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: UK Practical Comparison of Smoke Alarms – Part II

Year: 1997

Used Synthetic Material: Yes

Duration of Smoldering Test: < 15 Mins

Comments: Both Ion's and Photo' Adequate.

Note: Fires Smoldered < 15 Mins. There Was an Unexplained Change in Way Researchers Ignited Fires

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Simplex Study

Year: 2001

Used Synthetic Material: UL 268 Test

Duration of Smoldering Test: UL 268 Test

Comments: Ion's Slightly Better in Flaming Fires. Photo's Provide Clear Advantage in Smoldering Fires.

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: Kermano Fire Study

Year: 2003

Used Synthetic Material: Yes

Duration of Smoldering Test: < 15 Mins

Comments: Combination Alarms Worked Best. Ion's Best for Flaming Fires. Photo's Best for Smoldering Fires. All Gave Adequate Evacuation Times.

Note: Alarms Used Were UL-Canada – ULC Standard Is Different than US Standard I.e. More Sensitive

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: ***NIST Fire Study***

Year: ***2003***

Used Synthetic Material: ***Yes***

Duration of Smoldering Test: ***N/A – Variety of Scenarios***

Comments: “Both common residential smoke alarm technologies (ionization and photoelectric) provided positive escape times in most fire scenarios”.

Note: Ion Alarms Provided a ***-43 sec*** and a ***+16*** Escape Time in Two of the Deadliest Fire Scenarios. ***Positive Escape Time Does Not Equal Enough Time to Escape***

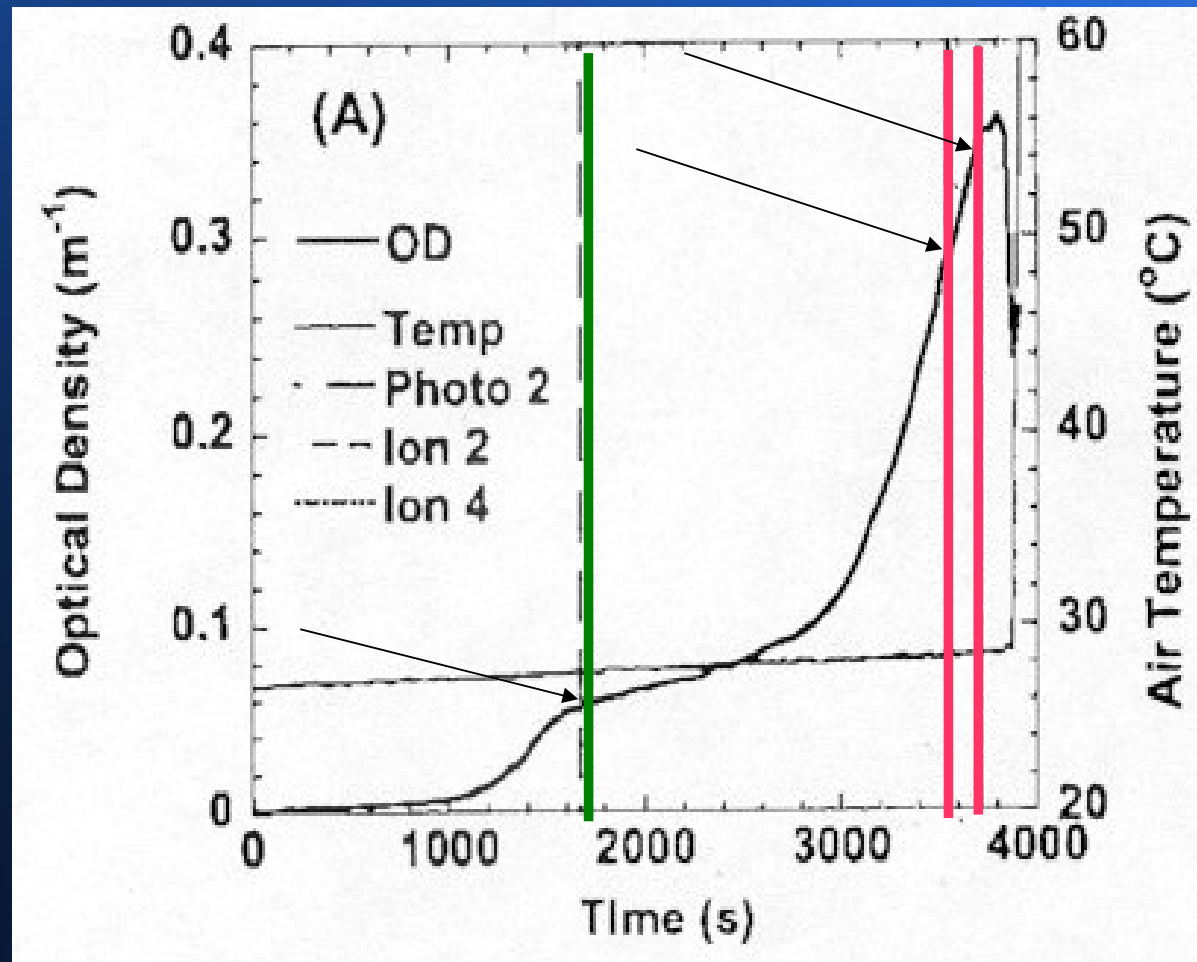
Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

NIST 2003:

**Fig 1: Test 34
Smoldering Fire
In Living Room**

*Note: This is one
of the
deadliest fire
scenarios*



Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

NIST 2003:

**Data for Previous Slide – Note Ion Response Far Exceeds
UL Required Upper Response Threshold of 10% O.D**

TABLE 3 – RESPONSE CHARACTERISTICS (TEST 34)


| DETECTOR TYPE | RESPONSE TIME | %OBSCURATION AT RESPONSE |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Photoelectric | 1600 secs | 3-4% obsc/ft |
| Ionization | 3550 secs | 17-19% obsc/ft |
| Ionization | 3700 secs | 20-22% obsc/ft |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

NIST 2003:

TABLE 1 - AVAILABLE SAFE EGRESS TIME (PAGE 242)
(Manufactured Home)



| | Photoelectric | Ionization |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Flaming | | |
| Living Room | 85 | 142 |
| Bedroom | 58 | 93 |
| Bedroom (Door Closed) | 451 | 898 |
| Smoldering | | |
| Living Room | 172 | -43  |
| Bedroom | 1091 | 82 |
| Cooking | | |
| Kitchen | 575 | 821 |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

NIST 2003:

TABLE 2 - AVAILABLE SAFE EGRESS TIME (PAGE 243)
(Two-Story Home)

| | Photoelectric | Ionization |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Flaming | | |
| Living Room | 108 | 152 |
| Living Room(Replicate) | 134 | 172 |
| Living Room(Fully Furnished) | 144 | 172 |
| Bedroom | --- | 374 |
| Bedroom (Door Closed) | 3416 | 3438 |
| Smoldering | | |
| Living Room | 3298 | 16  |
| Living Room (Air Conditioned) | 2772 | -54  |
| Bedroom | 135 | 135 |
| Cooking | | |
| Kitchen | 952 | 278 |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: ***NIST Fire Study***

Year: ***2008***

Used Synthetic Material: ***Variety of Materials Flame/Smol***

Comments: ***All Alarms Responded in Flame Tests within Stds.***

Wood Smolder Test: ***Photoelectric alarms reached thresholds earlier and at more locations than ionization alarms***

Polyurethane Foam Smolder Test: ***The propensity was for photoelectric alarms to reach threshold values during smoldering, and *all alarms to reach thresholds after transition to flaming.****

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

Agency: FEMA Smoke Alarm White Paper

Year: 2006

Used Synthetic Material: N/A – Limited Field Test Only

Comments: 24% of US Households Surveyed Had Either No Alarm or Non-Functional Alarm – Accounts for 2/3's of Fire Deaths

- *50% of Households with Non-Functional Alarms Cited Nuisance Trips as Reason for Disabling*
Also Looked at Age, Race, Income Levels vs Risk

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

UL Smoke Characterization Project:

Fire Protection Research Foundation/UL, April 2007

The Report Cannot Be Used In Part, To Download a Copy:

<http://ul.com/global/documents/corporate/newsroom/storyideas/smokecharacterizationstudy/SmokeStudyTechnicalReport.pdf>

It is important to refer to Page 109, Table 25

This UL Study examines smoke characteristics for the materials used in the UL 217/268 tests plus various synthetic materials

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

UL Smoke Characterization Project:

The Study Collected Data on Smoke Characteristics such as:

Particle Size, Particle Color, Heat Generation, Gas Generation
Under UL Test Conditions

Table 25 Summarizes the Results of Residential Ionization and Photoelectric Alarm Response Times to the Materials Tested in Non-Flaming/Smoldering Conditions (UL 268)

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>UL Smoke Characterization Study</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>2007</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>UL 217/UL 268 plus Synthetics</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>Flaming/Smoldering per UL Stds</i> |
| <i>Comments: See Page 109, Table 25</i> | |
| <i>Ion's Responded Best to Burnt Toast</i> | |
| <i>Failed in 1 of 4 UL 217 Material Tests</i> | |
| <i>Did Not Respond to Any Synthetic Materials Within Test Requirements</i> | |

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

UL Smoke Characterization Project:

Neither Alarm Type Responded to:

Polyisocyanurate Insulation, 150x150x200mm Test Pieces

Or

Smaller Test Pieces of Polyurethane Foam, 150x150x50mm Test Pieces

Above Tests Apparently Did Not Generate Sufficient Smoke Density to Trigger

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

UL Smoke Characterization Project:

Other Smoldering Fire Results:

Smoldering Ponderosa Pine, a UL 217 Test Material:

Photoelectric Alarms - 2.3% Faster (Basically the Same)

Ionization Alarms Did Not Respond in 1 of 4 UL Test Materials
A 25% No Alarm Rate

Bread/Toaster: Ionization Alarms 22% Faster Response

In ALL Other Smoldering Test Synthetic Material Scenarios:

NONE of the Ionization Alarms Triggered Within Test Parameters

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Test/Study:

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Agency:</i> | <i>CPSC Nuisance Trip Study</i> |
| <i>Year:</i> | <i>2010</i> |
| <i>Used Synthetic Material:</i> | <i>N/A - Cooking in Real Homes</i> |
| <i>Duration of Smoldering Test:</i> | <i>N/A</i> |
| <i>Comments: Limited Test – 9 Home Test</i> | |
| <i>8 Homes for 30 Days</i> | |
| <i>1 Home for 60 Days</i> | |
| <i>Combination Ion/Photo Twice as Likely to Nuisance Trip at 5 Feet Than Either Ion/Photo Only</i> | |

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Other Issues Impacting Safe Egress Times

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

The Use of Modern Engineered Wood and Synthetic Materials Have Reduced Escape Times:

Engineered Wood Framing Burns to Structural Failure Significantly Faster Than Dimensional Lumber

Source: Fire Engineering Magazine, Toomey, May 2008

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Figure 1. Collapse Time for Assemblies

| Structural Element – Ceiling Finish | Type of Construction | Ceiling Materials | Floor/Roof Subfloor/Finish | Collapse Time (min:sec) |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 x 10 Joist Floor – Without Ceiling | Legacy | None | 1 x 6 and Hardwood | 18:45 |
| 2 x 10 Joist Floor – With Ceiling | Legacy | Gypsum Board | OSB and Carpet | 44:45 |
| 2 x 10 Joist Floor – With Ceiling | Legacy | Lath and Plaster | 1 x 6 and Hardwood | 79:45 |
| 12-inch Wood I-Joist Floor – Without Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | None | OSB and Carpet | 6:03 |
| 12-inch Wood I-Joist Floor – With Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | Gypsum Board | OSB and Carpet | 26:45 |
| 14-inch Finger Joint Truss Floor – Without Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | None | OSB and Carpet | 13:06 |
| 14-inch Finger Joint Truss Floor – With Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | Gypsum Board | OSB and Carpet | 26:45 |
| 14-inch Metal Gusset Truss Floor w/ Cord Splices and Framed Stair Opening – Without Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | None | OSB and Carpet | 13:20 |
| 14-inch Metal Gusset Truss Floor – With Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | Gypsum Board | OSB and Carpet | 29:15 |
| 14-inch Metal Gusset Truss Floor w/ Cord Splices, Recessed Lights and Ducts With Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | Gypsum Board | OSB and Carpet | 30:08 |
| Metal Gusset Truss Roof – With Ceiling | Modern Lightweight | Gypsum Board | OSB and Shingles | 13:06 |
| 2 x 6 Joist and Rafter Roof – With Ceiling | Legacy | Gypsum Board | 1 x 6 and Shingles | 40:00 |

Floor Collapse In as Little as 6 Minutes.

Engineered wood floor assemblies have the potential to collapse very quickly under well-ventilated fire conditions. When it comes to lightweight construction, there is no margin of safety. There is less wood to burn and, therefore, potentially less time to collapse.

Source: *Structural Collapse: The Hidden Dangers of Residential Fires*, Fire Engineering, May 2008

Dalton, Backstrom, and Kerber, UL & City of Chicago

Deadly Differences **Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**



Floor Colapse In as Little as 6 Minutes.

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

The Use of Modern Engineered Wood and Synthetic Materials Have Reduced Escape Times:

The Time From Ignition to Flashover Has Fallen Significantly Due Primarily to Modern Synthetic and Composite Wood Materials

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

“Both rooms were ignited by placing a lit stick candle on the right side of the sofa. The fires were allowed to grow until flashover. The legacy room transitioned to flashover in 29 minutes and 30 seconds whereas the modern room transitioned in just 3 minutes and 30 seconds.”

Source: Smoke Alarms and the Modern Residence Fire – UP May 2011

Deadly Differences **Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**

*“The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) compared escape times from house fires before and after the increase of synthetic materials in home furnishings. **The study found that escape time in 1975 averaged 17 minutes. By 2003, that average had dropped to just three minutes.**”*

Source: ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems book

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Examples of Real Word Fires:

Hilton Hotel Fire, Houston 1982

Room Fire, Room Had Ion Alarm

First Alarm to Operate was a Photoelectric Alarm 4 Floors Above in a Corridor

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Examples of Real World Fires:

Prudential Building Fire, Boston 1986

Fire on Floor 14 of 52

Alarms Were Ion's at Each Elevator Lobby

*Most Alarms on Upper Floors Never Activated During 2
1/2 Hour Event – Even Though Smoke Reached Them
Within 4 Minutes*

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Examples of Real Word Fires:

Andrea Dennis, Kyle Raulin, Al Schlessman, Erin DeMarco, and Christine Wilson These five students died at Ohio State University on April 13, 2003



Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Examples of Real Word Fires:

Julie Turnbull, Kate Welling & Steve Smith died in this house on April 10th, 2005 at Miami University



Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Examples of Real Word Fires:

Between the Dennis, Ohio State and Turnbull Miami University there were an estimated 22 Smoke Alarms.

Most Were Ionization Alarms and Believed Functional.

None Sounded.

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Now Live Via Skype From Ohio

Welcome
Dean Dennis

Father of Andrea Dennis
and
Co-Founder of Fathers for Fire Safety

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

June 12, 2008
Chairman Nancy Nord
US Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Room 419
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairman Nord:

I am writing as a follow-up to a letter sent to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) by Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Fleming of the Boston Fire Department on March 12, 2008 regarding the safety of smoke alarms. It is my understanding that there are multiple unresolved issues concerning ionization detectors' inability to detect smoke or sound an alarm. In fact, it is my understanding that the CPSC expressed serious concerns regarding ionization detectors as early as 1995. These concerns mirror those put forward by Chief Fleming, an outspoken advocate for removing ionization detectors from the marketplace. Yet, the CPSC still has not acted to remove the alarms from the market, nor has the CPSC warned consumers as to the potential drawbacks of ionized detectors.

The issues that appear to be the most prescient and that were addressed by Mr. Fleming in his letter to you, still remain unsettled. I ask that you address, the questions in Chief Fleming's letter in detail, and respond to the following concerns:

1. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) has found that, on average, a photoelectric detector is 30 minutes faster in detecting a smoldering fire than an ionized detector. The highest percentage of deaths caused by smoldering fires occurs while people are sleeping, when the operation of a smoke detector is critical. In fact, this percentage may be as high as 100 percent. Four years ago NIST reached the conclusion that ionization detectors sometimes fail to alarm in smoldering fires, even when visibility is significantly degraded by smoke.

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

2. While ionized detectors alarm sooner in "ultra-fast" flaming fires by an average of 50 seconds, those seconds appear to be negligible considering that most people are awake when flaming fires occur. In addition, in what appears to be the most common type of flaming fires (i.e. cooking fires) the photoelectric detector was providing more than enough time for an occupant to escape.

3. Several studies show that the ionization smoke detector is many times more likely to be disabled than photoelectric detectors.

4. The ionization smoke detector is being used by the vast majority of Americans. The ionization smoke alarms susceptibility to nuisance alarms (leading to disablement) and inadequate response to smoldering fires could be responsible for hundreds of needless deaths each year.

Recently, due to the efforts of Chief Fleming of the Boston Fire Department to educate the authorities to these facts, the states of Massachusetts and Vermont have taken steps to restrict the use of ionization smoke detectors in residential occupancies. In response to the available evidence that suggests the inherent danger of ionization detectors, I ask that you promptly investigate the issues raised by Chief Fleming, and that you respond to his letter of March 12, 2008.

Fire safety and the use of working fire alarms are vital to the protection of our children, seniors, adults and families around the United States. I strongly urge you to provide a timely response to the above concerns and to consider the potential loss of life should it become clear that a large percentage of Americans are using inadequate smoke detectors.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Adrian Butler is a Former Fire Fighter

He Started a Smoke Alarm Manufacturing Company

Adrian Noticed that He Was Recieving a Number of

Complaints About His Alarms Not Going Off in

Fires...

So He Started Digging

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*What He Found Made Him Get Out of the Smoke
Alarm Business
and
Co-Found the World Fire Safety Foundation*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Adrian Butler
Chairman, World Fire Safety Foundation

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*Canadian Television – Channel 5 Report
Exerpts Including*

Texas A& M Video

*Note: Canadian UL (ULC) Standards Are More Strict Than US Standards
Canada = Max OB Level 6% / US = Max OB Level 10%*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

What Is Being Done?

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

In the US, Photoelectric Technology Laws In Place

In:

Massachusetts

Vermont

Maine

Iowa

Under Review In Several Other States

Deadly Differences **Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms**

*In the CA, Photoelectric Technology Laws Are In
Place In:*

*Palo Alto
City of Albany
Sebastopol
City of Orange*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

International Association of Fire Fighters:

*Official Position Calling for Photoelectric Only
Technology*

Specifically States, No Combination Detectors

*Union Represents 290,000 US & Canadian
Fire Fighters*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

California Real Estate Inspection Association

*Official Position Calling for Photoelectric Only
Technology*

Specifically States, No Combination Detectors

*Mirrors IAFF Position, First HI Organization in The World
to Take a Stand*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

*California Real Estate Inspection Association
Standards of Practice
Modified to State:*

*Inspector is Not Required to Determine Type of
Alarm*

*CREIA Legal Counsel Feels No Additional Liability
with Position*

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

What Can We Do as Inspectors?
*Tell Your Agents...Your Clients...
Your Family...Neighbors...Friends, Etc!*

*As a group, make public awareness a Priority and
Support the official position of CREIA and IAFF.*

Deadly Differences

Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

The Goal Today Is Was Simple

I Want Each Of You To Have
A Thorough Understanding of the Issues
A Strong Position On This Issue
and
The Confidence To Voice it

Deadly Differences
Ionization vs Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Was I Successful?

Questions and Comments!