

Queensland Parliament | Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015



Senate Inquiry Statements Made Under Parliamentary Privilege/Legal Immunity

“...only photoelectric smoke alarms should be allowed.
...ionisation alarms should be banned.
...the (smoke alarm) standard itself is flawed.”



Commissioner Greg Mullins

AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AUTHORITIES
COUNCIL



Statements by AFAC’s President & FRNSW’s
Commissioner, Greg Mullins at the Australian
Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry | Canberra, ACT | 4 Dec 2015

page 10

submission by:



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 PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE ALARMS SAVE MORE LIVES		Photoelectric Smoke Alarms Safer For Fire Fighters™	
	Page	Ionisation	Photoelectric
Failure to Activate	11	Significant	Insignificant
False Alarms and Disconnections	11	Significant	Insignificant
Safer for Fire Fighters™	11	No	Yes
 Disposal	11	Radioactive	Not Radioactive
Price	12	Affordable	Affordable
Located		Most Homes	Commercial Buildings

(c) Copyright World Fire Safety Foundation - Nov 2008

World Fire Safety Foundation Letter to L.A.C.S. Committee

1 February 2016

Legal Affairs and Community Safety (L.A.S.C.) Committee
C/- The Research Director, Parliament House, Brisbane, QLD 4000
Submitted via email on 01 February 2016: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au



Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about Queensland's proposed smoke alarms amendment bill.

In September 1980 the [International Association of Fire Chiefs warned lives were at risk](#) due to the ionisation type of smoke alarms inability to detect visible smoke in the early, smouldering stage of most fatal fires. Tragically their warning went unheeded and thousands of people have died in homes supposedly protected with ionisation alarms.

Fear of Litigation

Due to ongoing litigation concerns, there is a continued effort to keep the truth about known life-threatening limitations of ionisation alarms from the public, the media, and our fire fighters. This document gives insight into the decades of misinformation and how the truth is finally beginning to emerge.

The World Fire Safety Foundation has been exposing the limitations with the ionisation alarms in most Australian (and U.S.) homes since March 2000. Since 2006, the Foundation has been involved in assisting fire departments and government agencies in smoke alarm research and formulation of photoelectric-specific smoke alarm legislation across the USA and in Australia's Northern Territory. On 01 January 2016, Ohio became the largest U.S. state to enact photoelectric-specific legislation.

The Foundation would welcome an opportunity to provide input into the proposed Fire & Emergency Services Amendment Bill and looks forward to assisting the committee in any way possible. Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit this report.

Sincerely

Adrian Butler

World Fire Safety Foundation

Chairman, Co-Founder, Former Fire Fighter

58 Baroon Pocket Road, North Maleny, QLD 4552

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TheWFSF
Scribd: www.Scribd.com/TheWFSF | Web: www.TheWFSF.org www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

"...ionisation smoke alarms should not be available for purchase or installation in Australia. They should be prohibited."



Senator Glen Lazarus

'Smoke Alarms' Senate Speech
NSW, Australia | Feb 2015

(page 9)

"The main message is that only photoelectric smoke alarms should be allowed."



Greg Mullins AFSM

Commissioner FRNSW
President AFAC
NSW, Australia | 04 Dec 2016

(page 10)

Ionisation smoke alarms "should be replaced"



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Smoke Alarm Brochure

(page 12)

Overview - Executive Summary

There are two type of smoke alarms - **Ionisation** which are in most homes and **Photoelectric** which are in most commercial buildings (see page 2).

David Isaac is one of Australia’s leading fire safety experts and a member of the committee that oversees Australia’s Smoke Alarm Standard. In 60 Minutes October 2014 ionisation smoke alarm exposé, Isaac revealed that scientific test data held by the Australian Government (the CSIRO) shows that U.S. and Australian Smoke Alarm Standards are flawed and ionisation alarms have life-threatening limitations.

The Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) is the peak representative body of all Australian & New Zealand Fire Brigades. In December 2015, AFAC’s President, Commissioner Greg Mullins, was representing Queensland at the Senate Inquiry into smoke alarms. Under parliamentary privilege/legal immunity, Commissioner Mullins stated that ionisation smoke alarms “should be banned” and that Australia’s smoke alarm standard is flawed (see page 10).

Despite claims by those profiting from the sale and certification of ionisation smoke alarms claiming that they are effective, overwhelming evidence proves they are not. This opens the door for photoelectric-specific legislation to be introduced to properly protect the citizens of Queensland.

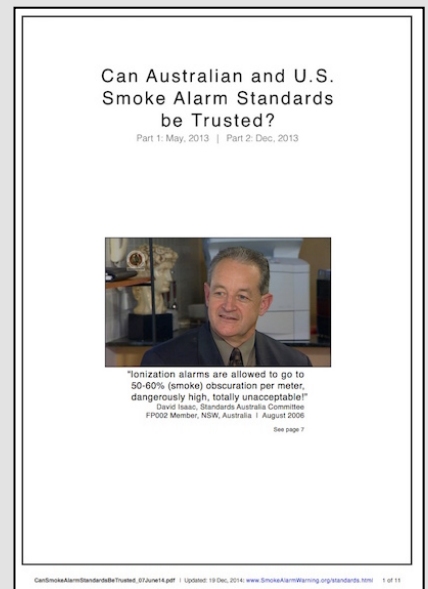


Meeting with Senator Bill Seitz (R) about Ohio’s Proposed Photoelectric Legislation | Cincinnati, Ohio, USA | July 2014
David Isaac (left), Senator Bill Seitz, Adrian Butler & Dean Dennis (right)

Logan House Fire Support Network Founder Louie Naumovski’s



Brisbane Senate Inquiry testimony debunking the dangerous myth that the public need “working smoke alarms”.
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org



Australia’s Flawed Smoke Alarm Standard (AS3786-1993)
The key to solving the 40 year ionisation alarm problem globally
SmokeAlarmWarning.org/reports.html

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

7 NEWS QUEENSLAND ‘Fire Commissioner Wants Most Common Smoke Alarms Banned’
6pm News | 11 Jan 2016

“Concerns continue to grow over ionisation smoke alarms with the NSW Fire Commissioner now calling for them to be banned.”



Greg Mullins AFSM | President, AFAC
Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW

06 October 2004



Ray Martin - 'A Current Affair'

'A Current Affair' (ACA) report airs across Australia warning about alleged life-threatening limitations with the ionisation alarms in most Australian homes.

06 June 2006



Tracy Grimshaw - 'A Current Affair'

AFAC report confirms alleged limitations with ionisation alarms from 2004. AFAC's report warns ionisation alarms may not operate in time for occupants to escape in the early, smouldering stage of fires.

01 June 2006

AFAC's Official Position On Smoke Alarms

The Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC - formerly the Australasian Fire Authorities Council) is the peak representative body for all Australian and New Zealand Fire Brigades.



www.TheWFSF.org/afac

After A Current Affair's October 2004 report, AFAC commissioned Victoria University to undertake global smoke alarm research which resulted in their official position.

AFAC's official 'Position on Smoke Alarms in Residential Accommodation' of 01 June 2006 states:

1. Ionisation Alarms - The Problem

"Ionisation smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smouldering fires."

Page 3, Clause 3 'Type', Note 3c

2. Photoelectric Alarms - The Solution

"That all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric smoke alarms."

Page 3, Clause 3 'Type', Para 1

3. Performance - Ionisation vs Photoelectric

"For both flaming and smouldering fires, photoelectric smoke alarms are likely to alert occupants in time to safely escape."

Page 3, Clause 3 'Type', Note 3

4. Combination Ionisation / Photoelectric Alarms

"Smoke alarms fitted with dual photo-electric / ionisation detectors are available.

Householders may choose to install such alarms in lieu of photoelectric alarms.

However, research indicates that they are more costly and prone to more false alarms than photo-electric alarms, and the benefits are marginal."

Page 3, Clause 3 'Type', Note 6
(for more on combo alarms see page 12)

Chris Gulaptis MP Smoke Alarms Parliamentary Speech CSIRO and UTC Open Letters



June 2013

'Smoke Alarms' Speech



Chris Gulaptis MP
NSW Parliament | 20 June 2013



[Transcript](#)

Speech Extract:

“Are ionisation smoke alarms defective? . . . I asked UTC what level of smoke did the Quell brand ionisation smoke alarm in my own home activate under Australian Standards testing. Despite four written requests¹ they have failed to answer my single question. I sent an Open Letter¹ to the President of UTC, Mr Louis Chênevert, 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 Clark¹, 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 U.S. Smoke Alarm Standards be Trusted?’² 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.

. . . David Isaac informed me photoelectric alarms typically activate between 8 to 12 per cent smoke in the CSIRO tests. What level of smoke did the Quell-branded UTC ionisation smoke alarm in my home activate under CSIRO testing? **Will the CSIRO allow the media to film their smoke alarm testing?** Mr Speaker, my interest in this matter is to save lives this winter and on this basis I ask both UTC and the CSIRO to answer my questions.”

[Chris Gulaptis MP Parliamentary Speech](#) | NSW Australia | 20 June 2013 (emphasis added)

Note:

1. Copies of all Mr Gulaptis' UTC/CSIRO correspondence (item 4): www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/csiro.html
2. Can Australian and U.S. Smoke Alarm Standards be Trusted?: www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/reports.html (see page 4)

Hear 'The Law & You' U.S. radio interview (June 2014) about UTC's settling out of court with a Confidentiality Order after being forced to supply CSIRO evidence to a US court: www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/ba.html

19 October 2014 (Australia)
10 November 2014 (New Zealand)

60
MINUTES



The Alarming Truth

Why the smoke alarms in your home may not save you

“I thought the fire alarms fitted in my home would protect my family, but what I’ve just seen is shocking.”
Karl Stefanovic, 60 Minutes Reporter | 11 Oct 2014

and a photo-electric alarm went off a good five or six minutes ago,

and we still haven't heard anything from the ionisation alarm,

Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) and 60 Minutes Smoke Alarm Tests

Smouldering Fire Test
Karl Stefanovic (right) watches on as NTFRS A/Asst. Fire Commissioner Grant Hamon insert a soldering iron into a foam couch to simulate a real-world smouldering fire test*.

Stefanovic Shocked by Tests

“...and the reality is 90% of Australians don't know there's a difference between these alarms.”

As you can see, a huge amount of smoke has built up inside here,

IAFC's 1980 Residential Smoke Alarm Report Warned Lives at Risk with Ionisation Smoke Alarms

The [International Association of Fire Chiefs report](#) (Sept 1980) warned:

1. Ionisation alarms were not safe,
2. Fire Chiefs should recommend photoelectric smoke alarms.
3. Fire Chiefs should conduct real-world smouldering fire tests to see the results for themselves. (This was explained in detail on page 66, column 3 of the report):

www.TheWFSF.org/iafc

IAFC's 1980 Report

*Note: The 60 Minutes/NTFRS test was based on the smouldering fire test recommended by the IAFC in their 1980 Residential Smoke Alarm Report as shown above.

The Alarming Truth - David Isaac's CSIRO Quote

... continued from previous page

October 2014

“We produced all the CSIRO test evidence that shows how bad these things are in the test fire in the CSIRO laboratory.”



David Isaac, Standards Australia FP002 Committee Member

CSIRO ActivFire® Certification is Costing Lives

Open Letters to CSIRO CEO's, Legal Counsel & Staff

The image shows the cover of a report titled "CSIRO ActivFire® Certification is Costing Lives". At the top, it features the CSIRO logo on the left and the ActivFire Certified logo on the right. Below the title, it says "Open Letters to CSIRO CEOs, Legal Counsel & Staff". In the center, there is a quote from David Isaac: "And we produced all the CSIRO test evidence which shows how bad these things are in the test fire in the CSIRO laboratory." Below the quote is a small photo of David Isaac and his name. To the right of the quote, it says "page 4 & page 7". Below the quote, there is another quote: "...the ionization alarms have failed* Australian Standards since 1993." followed by "Darren Curtis, Lead story, Channel 9 News, Brisbane, Australia, May 2011". Below this is a small photo of Darren Curtis and his name. At the bottom of the report cover, there is a section titled "HOW TO USE THIS REPORT" with instructions on how to download the PDF file, navigate through the report, and view videos.

The CSIRO continues to profit from the certification of ionisation alarms when their own scientific test data proves their life-threatening defects.

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/csiro.html

(scroll down to item 10)

October 2014

Logan House Fire Support Network



Louie & Christine Founders, LHFSN

The WFSF thanks LHFSN founders, Louie and Christine Naumovski for securing the 60 Minutes story and for their ongoing work supporting the victims of house fires and advocating for photoelectric alarms.

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/lhfsn.html



Louie & Christine with 60 Minutes Karl Stefanovic

Senator Glenn Lazarus Smoke Alarms Speech Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry

February 2015

'Smoke Alarms' Speech



[Transcript](#)

Senator Glenn Lazarus
Australian Senate, ACT | 11 February 2015

Speech Extract:

"So why, given that photoelectric alarms are considered by virtually everyone involved in the fire emergency prevention and safety industry to be the safest and most appropriate fire safety and prevention devices, are Australians still able to purchase and install ionisation smoke alarms?"

The reason is that the Australian government has failed to act."
Senator Glenn Lazarus, 'Smoke Alarms' Senate Speech | 11 Feb 2015

June 2015

Senate Inquiry

Glenn Lazarus
Senator for Queensland
'Doing the hard yards for Queensland'™

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY INQUIRY

We MUST STOP house fire injuries and deaths

House fire deaths and injuries are preventable and yet every year across the country hundreds of Australian families are devastated by house fire related incidents. Sadly, lives are destroyed forever. We must STOP the preventable injuries and deaths. Our country can do this by amending legislation, reviewing access to and installation of, fire safety and prevention products and improving community education and awareness.

I am determined to stop house fire injuries and deaths across Australia.


I have secured the support of the Australian Senate to establish a national 'Fire Safety Inquiry' which will look into house fire incidents across the country and determine what changes need to be made to stop the carnage.

For the Video of Senator Lazarus's Senate Speech, the Hansard Transcript, Press Releases, radio interview, go to:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/gl.html

Note: The WFSF congratulates Senator Lazarus on his Senate Speech and for securing the Senate Inquiry.

Commissioner Greg Mullins (and other) Testimony at Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry Hearing | Canberra, 4 Dec 2016

 December 2016

The Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry: How AFAC and others exposed the known life-threatening limitations of ionisation smoke alarms.



AUSTRALIAN SENATE SMOKE ALARM INQUIRY
Testimony & Submissions
Second Hearing - Parliament House, Canberra, ACT | 4 December 2015



Commissioner Greg Mullins
AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AUTHORITIES COUNCIL
Commissioner Mullins, President AFAC

Greg Mullins - Commissioner, FRNSW | President, AFAC
"The main message is that only photoelectric smoke alarms should be allowed . . . My personal view is ionization alarms should be banned . . . and the standard itself (AS3786-1993) is flawed."
Greg Mullins, Commissioner FRNSW (Australasia's most senior fire official)
President, Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)
(AFAC is the peak representative body for all Australian & New Zealand fire brigades)

[Testimony >>>](#)

David Isaac - Fire & Safety Technologies Pty Ltd
"The essence of the problem is that no manufacturer wants (or industry representative of a manufacturer wants) to admit, there is any performance problem with ionization smoke alarms."
David Isaac, Fire & Safety Technologies Pty Ltd | Australia's leading fire safety expert | Standards Australia committee FP002 member

[Testimony >>>](#)



David Isaac, Standards Australia Committee





Rebecca Le Tourneau
Producer, 60 Minutes

Rebecca Le Tourneau - Producer, 60 Minutes Australia
"Industry Politics which are wasting time and risking more lives . . . Ensure the Australian Building Codes Board takes it head out of the sand and mandates interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms across Australia before the next family fire takes its next family."
Rebecca Le Tourneau, 60 Minutes Producer of the ionization smoke alarm exposé, 'The Alarming Truth' (see film below)

[Submission >>>](#)



How the CSIRO and others misrepresented the facts about the known life-threatening limitations of ionisation smoke alarms:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/siv-csiro.html



Ionisation Alarms: Life-Safety and Litigation Concerns: 1 of 3

1. Failure to Activate

Ionisation alarms' inability to safely detect fire in the early, smouldering stage was revealed in the International Association of Fire Chiefs 'Residential Smoke Alarm Report' in October 1980:

www.TheWFSF.org/iafc

CSIRO Test Data

The Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) holds scientific test data which show that ionisation alarms sold in the U.S.A. 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 interviews, world experts discuss the Confidentiality Order preventing disclosure of the level of smoke ionisation alarms activate under CSIRO testing:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/ba.html



2. High False Alarm & Disconnection Rate

People often say, "My smoke alarm goes off when I'm cooking toast - it must be working fine." Ionisation 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 smouldering fires emit cool, visible smoke particles, but usually not enough of the hot invisible particles to activate ionisation alarms. They will almost always remain silent during the smouldering stage of a fire - until the fire bursts into flame, after which it is often too late to safely escape (page 5).



Research shows ionisation 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 ionisation 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 smouldering phase while you are sleeping.

Disconnection Rate

Because of the inherent false alarm problem with ionisation technology, approximately 25% of ionisation alarms are disconnected within the first two years. The disconnection rate for photoelectrics is negligible:

www.GetSafeAlarms.com/technical-and-performance-faqs

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 ionisation and photoelectric alarms is only a matter of a difference of seconds - if the alarm has not been disconnected and if it is in the room of fire origin.

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

Photoelectric Alarms | 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.

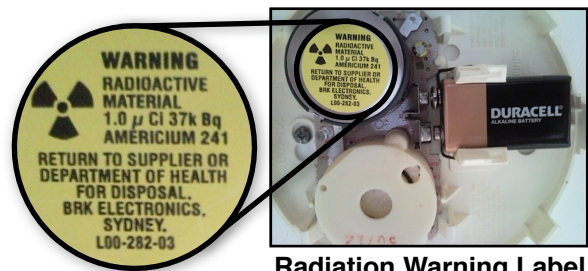
Install photoelectric alarms. Help make your family and our fire fighters safer! Find out more, read Fathers For Fire Safety's report:

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

www.Scribd.com/doc/245353416

4. Environmental/Disposal Problem

All ionisation 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

Ionisation Alarms - Life-Safety and Litigation Concerns: 2 of 3

5. Affordability

Combination photoelectric/ionisation 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. Australian, U.S. and New Zealand consumer organisations have discovered the defects with ionisation alarms and recommend photoelectric smoke alarms.



"The ionisation models . . . were hopeless for smouldering fires . . . That failing is potentially fatal."

[Consumer N.Z.](#), scientific test results, May 2006



"... it's really important that you have photoelectric alarms in your house; those smokey, smouldering fires are real killers..."

Chris Barnes, [Choice Australia](#) March 2010



"People are dying all the time because these (ionisation) smoke detectors are inadequate."

Joan Claybrook CEO, [Public Citizen](#) Feb 2008

6. The Dual Alarm & Ionisation/Photoelectric Combination Myth | (see AFAC position on page 5)

Since the mid-1970s, fire authorities have almost exclusively promoted ionisation 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 ionisation 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 7) 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 (ionisation) 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 types of smoke alarms" is so insidious. It appears to make sense - but is untrue.

Failure to Warn

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

Stages of Fire - Not Types of Fire

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

7. Sensor Sensitivity Manipulation (SSM)

The Global Push for Photoelectric Alarms

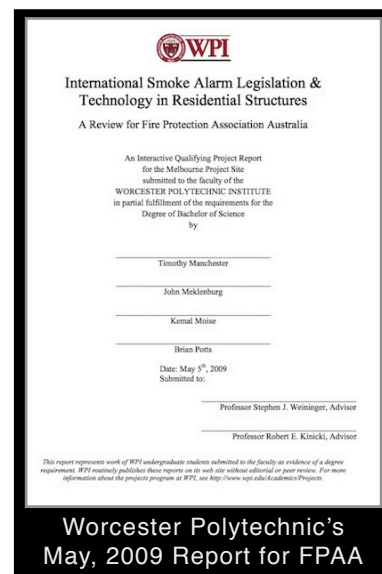
"A group of fire protection authorities across the world, including Boston's Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Fleming and New Zealand's Adrian Butler, are leading the push towards requiring photoelectric smoke alarms in all dwellings."

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 (FPA) is Australia's major technical and educational fire safety organisation.

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

The following quotes are extracts from the WPI report:



www.TheWFSF.org/wpi

continued on next page . . .



Ionisation Alarms - Life-Safety and Litigation Concerns: 3 of 3

. . . continued from page 10

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: smouldering fires . . . The only case in which the ionisation 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."

WPI Report, 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."

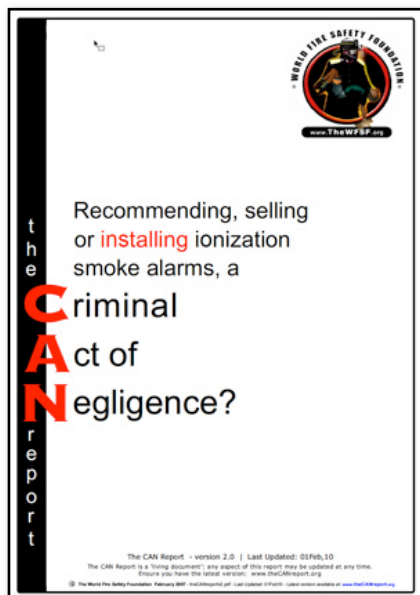
WPI Report, Combination Smoke Alarms: Page 36, Clause 4.1.3, Para 3

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 ionisation technologies, combination detectors are likely to be disabled by a consumer, rendering them useless to warn occupants of any fire."

WPI Report, Conclusion: Page 35, Clause 4.1.8, Para 2

8. Litigation Concerns



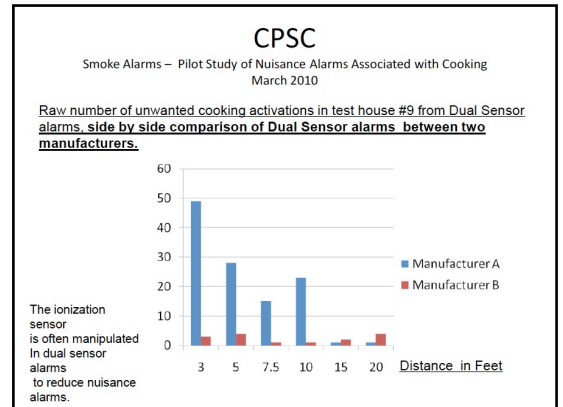
In February 2007 'The CAN Report' was sent by registered mail to eighty eight recipients in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

The report explained life-safety and litigation concerns when recommending selling or installing ionisation smoke alarms when empirical scientific test data held by Australia's CSIRO proves they have life-threatening defects.

The C.A.N. Report

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/can.html

You Can Not Hide Ionisation Smoke Alarms' Inherent Defects by Combining them with Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

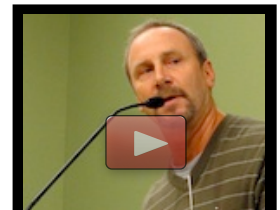


'Sensor Sensitivity Manipulation' (SSM) describes manipulating ionisation sensor settings in combination ionisation/photoelectric alarms to reducing nuisance alarming.

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

The WFSF thanks Dean Dennis from [Fathers For Fire Safety](#) for his research material

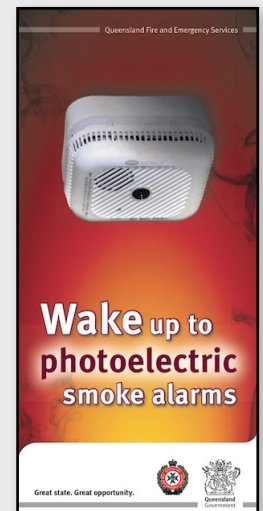


Dean Dennis
Testifying for Photoelectric Legislation in California

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



"For both flaming fires and smouldering fires, photoelectric smoke alarms are more likely to alert occupants in time to safely escape."



Ionisation alarms "should be replaced"

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/qld.html



Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015 | Objectives of the Bill

The key objective of the Bill is to implement recommendations from the Coronial Inquest into the Slacks Creek house fire that occurred in August 2011, claiming the lives of 11 people including eight children.


The Coroners recommendations were published on 29 November 2014

Some key outcomes of the Bill would be:

- Photoelectric smoke alarms would be required in residential premises in Queensland.
- These smoke alarms would be required to be in specified locations within residential premises.

Above information extracted from Queensland Government website on 31 Jan 2016: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LACSC/inquiries/current-inquiries/12-FESSmokeAlarmsAB15

Coroners Recommendations



OFFICE OF THE STATE CORONER

FINDINGS OF INQUEST

CITATION: Inquest into the deaths of Teukisia Jeannette Lale, Richard Steven Lale, Selamafi Letioa Lale, Jeanette Laloai Lale, Lini Paul Lale, Jeremiah Lale, Fusi Kaitau Taufu, Anna Maria Taufu, Katalhie Fusikaitau Fivaai Taufu, La'Haina Uheina Taufu and Adele Tapenisi Lee (Slacks Creek House Fire)

TITLE OF COURT: Coroners Court

JURISDICTION: Brisbane

FILE NO(s): 2011/2938, 2011/2939, 2011/2940, 2011/2941, 2011/2942, 2011/2943, 2011/2947, 2011/2945, 2011/2946, 2011/2934, 2011/2944

DELIVERED ON: 28 November 2014

DELIVERED AT: Brisbane

HEARING DATE(s): 18 August 2014 - 21 August 2014, 25 August 2014

FINDINGS OF: James McDougall, Coroner

CATCHWORDS: House fire, multiple deaths, smoke alarms

REPRESENTATION: Counsel Assisting: Mr Simon Hamlyn-Harris, Ms Megan Jarvis

Counsel for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service: Ms Melinda Zerner i/B Mr Paul Enders, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

www.Scribd.com/doc/297258909

SUMMARY

The CSIRO and manufacturers who have had their ionisation smoke alarms tested to Australia's smoke alarm standard (AS3786-1993) hold empirical scientific test data showing that ionisation 'smoke' alarms are unable to reliably detect visible smoke, despite the standard's requirement that, "The smoke alarm shall be designed to respond reliably to the presence of smoke." (clause 2.1).

Despite repeated requests to the CSIRO and manufacturers to provide CSIRO scientific test data, they refuse to provide it. The critical worth of this CSIRO data was demonstrated in a landmark U.S. court case in Montgomery Alabama when UTC (Kidde, Quell Chubb) were deposed/forced by the courts to provide this information. Within days of doing so they settled out of court. Please take the time to listen to this radio interview for critical insight into this issue: www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/ba.html

Given the evidence of needless ongoing deaths in homes fitted with ionisation smoke alarms in Australia, and thousands across the USA, Canada and the UK etc, the Foundation understands and accepts that manufacturers will not provide CSIRO test data as a corporation's primary function is to protect shareholder profits. However, the CSIRO is a government department and as such it is not acceptable for them to hide behind the veil of "commercial in confidence" when public lives are clearly at risk. This document will hopefully minimise hinderance from those more interested in saving face than saving lives.

May I respectfully request that the committee allow me the opportunity to testify on the 24th of February 2016 and assist where possible with Queensland's pending photoelectric-specific smoke alarm legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Sincerely

Adrian Butler
World Fire Safety Foundation
Chairman, Co-Founder, Former Fire Fighter
58 Baroon Pocket Road, North Maleny, QLD 4552

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TheWFSE
Scribd: www.Scribd.com/TheWFSE | Web: www.TheWFSE.org www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org