

A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

“The deliberate selling of a defective smoke detector to the American public with the defects intentionally concealed.”

Richard M Patton, FPE

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THE CRUSADE AGAINST FIRE DEATHS INC.



Richard M Patton
Crusade Founder
Fire Protection Engineer



Fighting To Protect You And Your Family

Patton's 'Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.' started in 1976 when he sent 3,000 'Smoke Alarm Fraud' reports to Fire Chiefs and fire Engineers across the USA.

Patton's relentless 30 year fire industry Crusade was the inspiration behind the new documentary **'Stop The Children Burning'** (see back page for more).

For more information visit our web site at: www.FireCrusade.com

A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

The Deliberate Selling Of A Defective Smoke Detector To The American Public With The Defects Intentionally Concealed

During Phase 1 of the Indiana Dunes Tests research of 1975¹, the researchers headed by Engineer Richard W. Bukowski, then employed by Underwriters' Laboratories, (UL), made a study to determine the amount of smoke (obscuration) that could be tolerated within the home while escape along the exit path would still be possible.

Early on the discussions centered on the benchmarks of 3% to 7%. Some prior research suggested that smoke above the 3% range would be excessive. Some research suggested that a level of 7%, possibly even higher might be tolerable. In the end, the Dunes Test researchers chose 7% as the maximum level of smoke to be tolerated along the escape routes. The wording, from page D-2 of the Dunes Test Report, Phase I, is as follows:

“For the dwelling fire situation, escape routes are not usually long and are familiar to occupants. Thus, it appears reasonable to adopt a critical smoke level of 0.07 per foot along escape routes.”

Early Underwriters’ Laboratories Procedures

At the time of the Dunes Tests, UL had no test for smoke detectors that would involve a smoldering-type fire in a realistic size room. UL did have a ‘smoke box’ test wherein the smoke detector was put into a small test chamber. The smoke produced by the smoldering fire within the ‘smoke box’ was blown into the detector with a fan. While this test could equate the sensitivity of one detector vs. another detector, it had little or no significance relative to a detector's performance within a real sized room or home. One might say that it was a test that would reveal how a detector placed inside a foot locker would respond to a fire within that footlocker.

Within the smoke box, the detector, to gain a UL listing (approval), had to respond to the smoke at a level not exceeding 4%.

Misleading Promotions By The Smoke Detector Advocates

The detector manufacturers, with support from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the federal agencies, publicized the ability of the smoke detector to detect smoke at the 4% level or less. The fire officials throughout the US, who rarely delve very deeply into such matters, accepted the 4% (or lower) figure as applying to conditions that would develop within a home protected with a smoke detector.

So, from the fire official's viewpoint, smoke above 7% probably would prevent escape, but (supposedly) the smoke detector would sound at 4% or less. The fire officials were being fooled by clever but unscrupulous test procedures and claims.

The Smoke Detector Failed To Perform At The U.L. Testing Laboratory

When full sized room testing was conducted during the Dunes Tests and other test programs, the ionization-type smoke detector was found to be generally not capable of detecting smoke from a smoldering-type fire (example: a cigarette in a sofa or bedding type fire). This should have raised a red flag to the marketing of the ionization-type smoke detector as a general purpose detector, especially since the NFPA and the smoke detector manufacturers were claiming at the time that 75% of all fires initiated as smoldering fires.

Since the detector could not detect a real (low temperature) smoldering fire, the UL engineers created a so-called ‘smoldering’ fire test. The engineers discovered that Ponderosa Pine sticks set on a high temperature hot plate, raised to 700 degrees Fahrenheit or greater (depending on duration), could produce a smoke that would trip the detector before the sticks flamed. Thus, a ‘sweetheart test’ was created so that UL could certify the smoke detector. As of today, there is no UL test procedure for the smoke detector relative to a true (low temperature) smoldering fire in a real sized room. Of course, UL had a profit motive for creating a test that the smoke detector could pass.

The UL Smoke Detector Test For Flaming Fires

In a non-subdivided room sized 36 X 22 X 10 feet (that perhaps reasonably simulates a real home), it was discovered that the smoke detectors were incapable of consistently detecting smoke even from a flaming fire below the 7% limit for smoke. Rather than concluding that the smoke detector would therefore not suffice as an adequate sole fire detector in the home, the smoke density (obscuration) test limits were raised well into the ‘deadly’ range. Depending on what was burning (plastics, flammable liquid, wood or newsprint) **the smoke limits at the detector were set at 17%, 21.5%, 27.5% and 37%**. Smoke could go even higher along the ‘escape route’. All these limits allowed by UL are very clearly into the deadly range (escape is unlikely).

National Cooperation For A Deadly Deception

Smoke alarm manufacturers with support from NFPA officials, had accepted the 4% obscuration limit for a smoke detector to activate.

Federal government engineers and researchers had set 7% as the **maximum tolerable level** of smoke allowed along exit paths.

However, when UL engineers finally discovered that the detectors (that had been promoted for a period of ten years) could not meet this criteria (i.e. a maximum 7% obscuration limit), in a real sized room, **they set limits for the smoke at the detector to be up to five times the maximum level that had already been determined as deadly.**

Since UL and the federal government were well aware of these flaws in the smoke detector's approval process, they should have taken steps to protect the public. Quite the contrary, the federal engineers at the National Bureau of Standards² took action to protect the manufacturers while concealing the truth from the public. The NFPA was, in my judgment even more dishonest, even more culpable. This organization, a private operation that creates and sells over 200 fire codes, which when

adopted by government become law, has gained control of billions of dollars of fire related commerce.

It is my belief that the NFPA people played a major role in corrupting the federal scientists and bureaucrats in addition to creating a 'phony' fire code. It is most unlikely that government employees would have falsified research and lied about the performance of the smoke detector in order to aid the smoke detector makers, except that they believed that they could do so with immunity under the protective umbrella of the powerful NFPA code making operation.

Why Fire Kills

Almost all home fires start small and are simple and easy for the home owner to either extinguish, or safely escape from, as long as they are detected early. Fire only kills if it is allowed to grow large and enters its killing stage while those in the home are unaware of its existence. Fire kills because, before that defective ionization smoke detector may operate, it creates temperatures more than five times that of boiling water and toxic smoke that can block the exit ways to childrens' bedrooms.

Let the reader realize that the smoke detector does indeed kill. If a school bus has faulty brakes and that bus with 40 children ends up submerged in a raging river at the foot of a steep hill, that defect in the bus has killed. The number one reason why the smoke detector has killed is that when it is manufactured to meet the UL test procedures, and when it is installed in accordance with the appropriate NFPA fire code, it will fail to detect a smoldering or flaming fire, prior to that fire producing untenable (deadly) conditions along the escape paths from that home more than 50% of the time (fire death statistics suggest the failure rate probably is in the 80% range).

The Betrayal

As an engineering student I became a charter member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Years later I quit that organization in disgust. The fire codes are a legislative operation, and far too frequently corrupt businessmen manipulated the fire codes to serve their profit motives. In the process, they created regulations that made a mockery of engineering and science. Such structuring of false and dangerous technology could not happen without the cooperation of many engineers of easy virtue, and the tacit approval of most.

Presently, is there a college trained fire protection engineer in this nation who does not fully comprehend that when smoke goes up to five times the maximum tolerable level without that detector sounding - people die? Years ago, were there any engineers who did not know that a 4 inch supply main was not needed to sprinker a home, or that a country restaurant did not require a hundred thousand gallon tank of water to extinguish an incipient fire? Where were my fellow engineers when I fought that lonely battle to add science to those phony codes?

In 1976 I analyzed the Dunes Test Research Report and scientifically proved that the ionization-type smoke detector was not capable of protecting human life within the home. I documented the proofs, valid proofs which are still valid today, and mailed my report to the engineers. Why did they look the other way, 50,000 lives ago? There are two sides to fire: one is to eliminate it, the other is profit from

it. Too many engineers look only at the side that's buttered. How can we expect firefighters to find the truth in technological matters where engineers routinely lie?

A Crime Against Humanity

The information provided above confirms that the promoting and approving of the smoke detector was deceptive and fraudulent and the outgrowth of a complex criminal conspiracy.

My studies of fire loss data published by the NFPA and the federal government indicates that the number of deaths due to smoke detector failures (mainly due to known but concealed defects) is approximately 50,000, with probably 300,000 serious injuries and maimings. The dishonesty associated with the approving, code making and advertising of the smoke detector was so blatant, and the consequences were so enormous, that I believe that naming this document 'A Crime Against Humanity' to be entirely appropriate.

Compensation For The Victims

When a defective safety device fails because of an inherent defect, resulting in injury or death, the injured party or kin will usually have legal recourse against the manufacturer or supplier. Depending on the state where the death or injury occurred, a statute of limitations may apply. Thus, relative to smoke detector failures due to inherent defects of the device, if the fire occurred too many years ago, the time for normal litigation may have expired.

However, if it can be shown that criminal fraud and/or a conspiracy to deceive the public underlay the marketing and the certifying of the device, the statute of limitations may *not* apply. Indeed if the law was violated in the making, advertising and promoting of the device, punitive damages may also be appropriate. I am an engineer, not a lawyer, accordingly I suggest any interested readers or victims explore any legal issues with an attorney. In the event a government agency at the federal, state or local level helped conceal or cover-up the failure modes of this device and otherwise aided the smoke detector manufacturers in the deceiving and defrauding of the public, legal actions against those entities may also be appropriate.

Research Documents Available

The investigations conducted by The Crusade Against Fire Deaths, Inc., has produced much evidence of deceptions, performance lies, rigging of research and other criminal activities and our studies and reports are now available to the public.



Richard M Patton
 Registered Fire Protection Engineer
 President, Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

Turn over for References...

REFERENCES:

1. Final Technical Report, IITRI Project J6340, UL File USNC-62, Project 74NK6752, Detector Sensitivity and Siting Requirements For Dwellings, Prepared for: U.S. National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.
2. The 'National Bureau of Standards' is now known as the 'National Institute of Standards and Technology'.

NOTE:

Damages in the tens of million of dollars have been awarded in law suits against smoke alarm manufacturers since this report was first published. For more information in this regard contact Richard Patton via email at:

firecrusade@lanset.com

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ABOUT
THE CRUSADE AND ITS FOUNDER
MR RICHARD M PATTON**



Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

The Crusade

"In 1980 The International Association of Fire Chiefs said they could take no other course but to recommend photoelectric, (not ionization) smoke alarms. Since then, despite overwhelming evidence of defects, more than 50,000 deaths and 250,000 injuries have occurred in homes 'protected' by ionization smoke alarms."

Richard M Patton, F.P.E.



www.FireCrusade.com

The Founder



Richard M Patton
Fire Protection Engineer

In August 2001, the 'Fire Protection Contractor' Magazine named Richard M Patton, 'Person of the Year.' Patton's 'Crusade Against Fire Deaths' started in 1976 when he sent 3,000 'Smoke Alarm Fraud' reports to Fire Chiefs and Fire Engineers across the U.S. Patton's relentless 30 year Crusade was the inspiration behind the documentary '*Stop The Children Burning.*' More info is at: www.StopTheChildrenBurning.com

"What Dick Patton has to say... should be the starting point for a full-fledged investigation... at a senior government level - with qualified professionals..."

Garth Stouffer, Manitoba Sun Newspaper

EXPERT WITNESS

Mr Patton has been involved in court cases involving death and injury as a result of defective fire protection equipment. In *every* case when Mr Patton has laid out the evidence against the fire industry the case has been settled out of court in favor of the plaintiff. Mr Patton is available at:

Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

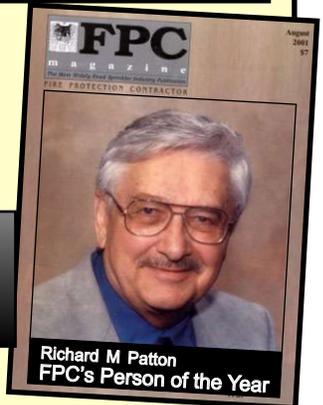
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- R.M. Patton Credentials -
This independent fire industry
report details Mr. Patton's
credentials and achievements.



Position Statements

The Radioactive Ionization Smoke Alarm

THE SILENT KILLER



Decades of scientific testing and evidence from tens of thousands of 'real world' fire deaths, substantiates conclusively, that the ionization smoke detector is proven to be defective in BOTH smoldering and fast flaming fires.

Radioactive, ionization alarms have kept proper fire protection out of the home and should be banned and replaced with a combination of properly installed, interconnected, heat alarms and photoelectric smoke alarms.

DOMESTIC SPRINKLERS

Sprinkler systems protect people in commercial buildings - but over 90% of fire deaths occur at home. Less than one percent of homes have sprinkler systems. Technology exists for home owners to economically self-install a domestic sprinkler system, that together with proper fire detection devices, could virtually eliminate home fire deaths. Unfortunately, the codes of the NFPA, with the cooperation of a monopolistic style sprinkler industry, have made it difficult to self install sprinklers. Information regarding self installation can be provided upon request.