

# THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS CHALLENGE

“I, Richard M. Patton, challenge the officials of the I.A.F.C. to meet me in a forum, open to the press and the public, to debate the performance capabilities and defects of smoke detectors”.

*Richard M Patton, FPE*

**PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THIS MESSAGE  
SEND THIS DOCUMENT TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!**

**'TheIAFCChallenge.pdf'** Last Updated: 15Mar05

Latest Version At: [www.FireCrusade.com/docs](http://www.FireCrusade.com/docs)

**NOTE:** All Crusade documents have been 'Digitally Updated' for convenience and ease of reading. Formatting style has been standardized and the text in the digitized documents, in some cases, has had minor modifications. Original documents are on file and available upon request (see back page for more).

## 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.'

**For more information visit our web site at: [www.FireCrusade.com](http://www.FireCrusade.com)**

## A CHALLENGE TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SMOKE DETECTORS

I, Richard M. Patton, President of The Crusade Against Fire Deaths, challenge the officials of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to meet me in a forum, open to the press and the public, to debate the performance capabilities and defects of smoke detectors.

Many (by no means all) fire officials claim that the ionization smoke detector, which has been installed in more than 90% of the homes in the United States, will of itself reliably warn of fire early, while there is still time to escape. However, as a professional Fire Protection Engineer, I say that more than 50% of the time smoke detectors will fail to sound prior to the fire within the home producing 'DEADLY' conditions.

Since 90% or more of the homes in the United States are protected only with smoke detectors, if what I claim to be true, is indeed true, then nearly all the citizens of the United States are unnecessarily endangered. The smoke detector problem is truly a life or death issue which especially impacts on pre-school children.

### WHY HOMES FIRES KILL SO OFTEN IN AMERICA

The attached Crusade report entitled: 'Why Home Fires Kill So Often In America', provides the information needed to confirm that the ionization-type smoke detector will fail to detect smoldering fires, and why both types of smoke detectors (ionization and photoelectric) are not satisfactory detectors of the flaming fire. In both situations, the fire is very likely to create conditions that can trap and kill before the smoke detectors sound.

Once conditions reach the 'untenable' stage, it will be very dangerous or impossible for the parent to leave the master bedroom to reach a child's room.

I request that you take action as follows relative to the problems I bring to your attention:

1. Call a press conference and inform the public via the press, that the ionization-type smoke detector will not adequately protect life in the home.
2. Consider recalling all ionization smoke detectors.
3. Accept the fact that while the photoelectric-type smoke detector is a proper detector for the smoldering fire, it is not a reliable detector for the flaming fire.

4. Begin to prepare an appropriate guide for protecting a home with a complete fire detection system throughout, including appropriate detectors for both flaming and smoldering fires. (I am not requesting a mandatory system. I am recommending a guide that defines an excellent fire detection system that the citizens may purchase, if desired.)

### PUBLIC DEBATE

In the event you do not agree with my analyses, then I say it is your responsibility to bring the issues before the public so that the people of the United States may decide.

I suggest a debate, before the press and public, between you and I. You may bring along 'experts' to help you as you may desire, from the smoke detector industry, the National Fire Protection Association, the Federal Fire Administration and/or the National Institute of Standards and Technology. I will be pleased to debate all of you.

If you, the members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, who are responsible for protecting the citizens from fire are telling the public the truth about the performance of smoke detectors, than you have no reason to refuse to meet me in this open forum where the truth should prevail.

Yours Truly



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

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



# The International Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

## THE CRUSADE

***“In 1980 The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) said they could take no other course but to recommend photoelectric smoke alarms. Since then, despite overwhelming evidence of defects, more than 50,000 deaths and 250,000 injuries have occurred in homes ‘protected’ by ionisation alarms”.*** *Richard M Patton, F.P.E.*



For more information about the Crusade visit us at:  
[www.FireCrusade.com](http://www.FireCrusade.com)

## THE FOUNDER



**Richard M Patton**  
Fire Protection Engineer

**I**n 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 fire industry crusade was the inspiration behind the revealing fire safety documentary ‘*Stop The Children Burning.*’

***“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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## POSITION STATEMENTS

### The Radioactive Ionisation Smoke Alarm **THE SILENT KILLER**



The Crusade contends that 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 smouldering and fast flaming fires! Radioactive, ionization alarms have kept proper fire protection out of the home and should be banned.

### **DOMESTIC SPRINKLERS**

Sprinkler systems protect hundreds of millions of people daily in commercial buildings - but over 90% of fire deaths occur at home. Less than 1% of homes have sprinklers. Technology exists for home owners to economically self-install a domestic sprinkler system, that together with proper fire detectors, could almost eliminate home fire deaths.