

# A Report on Correct Smoke Detectors in Your Home

by Roger Johnson, Indiana State Fire Marshal (Ret.)

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**Roger Johnson**

Indiana State Fire Marshal (Ret.), Past President Indiana Firefighters Association, Gold Card Life Member Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association  
Former Chief East Columbus Fire Department, Indiana, U.S.A.



**Note:** The World Fire Safety Foundation (WFSF) thanks Indiana's former State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson for permission to reproduce this report and for his ongoing advocacy for photoelectric smoke alarms. Roger Johnson is a supporter of, and an advisor to, the WFSF.

# A Report on Correct Smoke Detectors in Your Home

by Roger Johnson, Indiana State Fire Marshal (Ret) | 25 December 2015

This message is intended to address what happens if fire occurs as you sleep unaware of smoke in your home.

Most deadly residential fires begin as a slow smoldering fire that takes place while people sleep.

There are two types of smoke detectors, Ionization or Photoelectric.

**Ionization alarms do not usually sound a warning during early stages of a smoldering type fire in time for you to escape.**

No matter how new or fancy an Ionization Smoke Detector you may have in your home, odds are this

type will not sound an alarm to wake you in time to escape smoke from early stages of a fire.

PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE DETECTORS **WILL ALERT YOU IN TIME TO ESCAPE!**

As a person sleeps they are unaware of silent smoke building up around them. This is the crucial time an alarm needs to sound early enough for you and your family to escape the dangerous smoke

**Look at accounts of people who die in fires. Why did they die if they had a working smoke detector? Because the alarm failed to activate (sound a warning) in time to wake the person sleeping.**

When a person is sound asleep breathing in smoke and fumes can cause them to be overcome by smoke, investigations find many times survivors who manage to escape tell of being disoriented as they struggled to escape smoke and fumes. Firefighters have thousands of documentations on finding victims near a door as persons try to escape. Autopsies usually report the victim died from smoke inhalation NOT THE FLAMES.

THIS IS SO EASY TO CORRECT. JUST INSTALL A PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE DETECTOR NEAR YOUR SLEEPING AREA AND YOU WILL HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE TO ESCAPE INSTEAD OF PLAYING A GAME OF CHANCE WITH AN IONIZATION SMOKE DETECTOR MOST LIKELY TO FAIL IF A FIRE OCCURS.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON TESTS BY NUMEROUS FIRE DEPARTMENTS. \*(Check out WTHR INDIANAPOLIS Investigative Report DEADLY DELAY by Senior Investigative Reporter Bob Segall)

You determine if your family will survive a fire as they sleep, PHOTOELECTRIC SMOKE DETECTORS are the best investment for everyone's safety.

Best Regards, Roger Johnson

Indiana State Fire Marshal (Ret.), Past President Ind. Firefighters Association  
Gold Card Life Member IVFA, Past Chief East Columbus Fire Department

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**Note:** This story has been extracted from Indiana's WTHR TV report of 25 December 2015:  
[Former State Fire Marshal Issues Urgent Warning](#)

# Ionization Smoke Detector Fails Aquarium Test from 'Deadly Delay' Investigation - October 2007



Investigative Reporter Bob Segall's  
'Deadly Delay' investigation

“Over the last couple of months we’ve been telling you why it’s so important to have a photoelectric smoke detector in your home. We’re going to give you some more proof right now.”

## Bob's Alarming Exposé

Bob Segall, one America's leading investigative reporters, exposes the frightening truth about the type of smoke alarms in hundreds of millions of homes around the world.

# MYTHBUSTER

See Bob bust one of the greatest myths of all time . . .

(in under 5 minutes - after the 15 sec ad)



WTHR's 'Deadly Delay' investigation | 'Ionization Smoke Detector Fails Aquarium Test'  
with WTHR Chief Investigative Reporter, Bob Segall, WTHR Eyewitness News, Indiana, U.S.A. | October 2007

[www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/myths.html](http://www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/myths.html)

# WTHR's 'Deadly Delay' Ionization Smoke Alarm Investigation Indiana, U.S.A. | June 2007 ~ December 2015

www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6552929

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## Deadly Delay

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Updated: Dec 28, 2007 6:25 AM AEST

**Deadly Delay Part One: "Nobody Knows About This" - 13**  
Investigates will change the way you look at smoke detectors. Even though they may look the same, the truth is not all smoke detectors are alike.

**Deadly Delay Part Two: "I've Never Seen A Test Like This" -** The most popular type of smoke detector in the United States tends to provide far less warning and escape time during one of the most deadly types of fires. That is the finding of a WTHR smoke detector test conducted in partnership with the Indianapolis Fire Department.

**State fire marshal says smoke detector report shows "emergency" -** Indiana's state fire marshal says he will convene a statewide meeting of fire officials to discuss what actions are needed following an Eyewitness News investigation.

**Deadly Delay Part Three: New testing prompts new call for action -** Millions of families rely on ionization smoke alarms, but in a slow-burning fire, you should not rely on one to save your life. That's the message from the fire marshal and local fire officials who met Wednesday in Wayne Township.

**Deadly Delay Part Four: Ionization smoke detector fails aquarium test -** Will the smoke detectors in your home actually detect smoke? Before you answer, read what 13 Investigates has discovered.

**Deadly Delay Part Five: UL must improve smoke detector testing -** One of the world's leading testing and safety organizations cannot explain why some smoke detectors did not detect smoke.

**Fire marshal releases new recommendations for smoke detectors -** The state fire marshal is responding to an Eyewitness News investigation with a major announcement.

**Small-town tragedy offers nationwide lesson -** As part of Indiana's statewide Fire Prevention week, WTHR takes you hundreds of miles away to tell a story that hits very close to home. 13 Investigates discovered a small town in Vermont with a powerful message for Indiana. In fact, for you and your family, it's an important lesson that just might save your life.

**"Deadly Delay" investigation prompts Congressional action -** Millions of smoke alarms might not respond when you need them most. The government has known about this "Deadly Delay" for years, but has done nothing to warn you. Prompted by WTHR's investigation, Congress now wants the CPSC to end its silence on photoelectric technology.

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DEADLY DELAY VIDEO

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PREVIOUS NEXT

**What type of smoke detector do you have?**

[www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6552929](http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6552929)