

Mom Killed in Harlem Fire Likely Disconnected Smoke Alarms, Fell Asleep While Cooking

Darkness: All sides say she...

A Growing Problem

Smoke alarms provide an early warning of a fire, giving people additional escape time. In telephone surveys done for the NFPA, almost all households (96%) reported having at least one smoke alarm. This success story is tempered by the fact that in fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half (46%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.

(NFPA Smoke Alarms in U.S. Homes Fires Fact Sheet)



A New Safety Standard

By May 2020, the Standard for Single and Multiple Station Smoke Alarms, UL 217, will utilize new fire and nuisance tests that all manufacturers must meet in order to be compliant. Kidde alarms with TruSense technology meet these new standards which help recognize real fires and prevent nuisance alarms often caused by cooking.

The significantly revised UL standard incorporates new tests related to cooking nuisance alarms and smoldering and flaming polyurethane. These requirements are in addition to the standard's current wood and paper tests. The three new tests were added to better represent the smoke profiles and behavior of modern home fires to help ensure next-generation sensors are designed to give residents more time to evacuate safely.

Alarms that meet the new standard will have the new UL 217 8th Ed. marking on the packaging.



Helps Reduce Cooking Nuisance Alarms
UL 217 8th Ed.

That couch in the living room may be comfortable but furnishings comprised of synthetic materials such as polyurethane foam are known to ignite and burn faster than traditional materials.



Who doesn't love a delicious hamburger? A new UL nuisance test designed around burning hamburger is being implemented to help prevent consumers from disabling or removing alarms from service due to cooking related nuisance alarms. So the next time that burger gets too well done you won't have to deal with a nuisance alarm.

