

Why CO Alarms Should Have Non-Removable Lithium Batteries And Be Secured With Screw Through Alarm Into Mounting Plate

NFPA Fire Analysis and Research Division

"The fire broke out at 6:33 a.m. in a six-story, 18-unit apartment building, killing two children under the age of six. A juvenile playing with an open flame ignited paper goods on a kitchen table. Smoke alarms were found, but they were disconnected from the electrical system and the backup batteries were missing."

Center for Disease Control

"Despite public health measures to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings after major power outages, multiple CO poisonings (including 10 deaths) were reported in Gulf Coast states in the wake of hurricanes. Few homes had functioning CO detectors."

City of Fresno, CA

"Many low-income families are unable to afford batteries for their smoke alarms. These same households often rely on poorly installed, maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment - a main cause of fatal home fires."

Baltimore County, Towson, MD

"Older people often fail to maintain smoke alarms by testing them and replacing the batteries, county investigators say. In homes with small children, families often rob smoke alarms of their 9-volt batteries when they need a battery for a toy."



Fire Marshal's Office Coldwater, MI

"Never 'borrow' a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of fire if their batteries are missing or have been disconnected."

U.S. Navy Regional Safety Office Virginia Beach, VA

"Working smoke alarms in your home can mean the difference between life and death. But these life-saving devices are only effective when they're working properly. Smoke alarms with batteries that are dead, disconnected, or missing can't alert you to the dangers of smoke and fire."

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

"An estimated 2,850 people die and 15,900 people are injured annually because of fires in residences. Although more than 90 percent of homes have smoke alarms, millions of homes have alarms that do not work. Missing or dead batteries are the main cause for non-working smoke alarms."

National Fire Protection Association

"A candle left burning in the living room of a wood-frame house ignited combustibles, and heat and smoke spread to the second floor, where it fatally injured three sleeping boys. Smoke alarms on the second floor and in the basement were useless because their batteries were missing."

Ventura County Fire Department, Camarillo, CA

"An average of three children a day die in home fires and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Nonworking smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. Most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms is worn or missing batteries."