SAFETY SENSE

Maximum Fire Protection Requires Two Kinds Of Alarm Technology

(NAPSA)—While all smoke alarms are designed to detect smoke, certain sensing technologies react differently to certain types of fires. In order to provide your family with the maximum in fire-safety protection, use smoke alarms with both Ionization and Photoelectric Sensing Technologies—because not all fires are created equal.

It is possible for a fire to smolder for hours before erupting into flames. Photoelectric Sensing Technology is generally more sensitive than Ionization Sensing Technology at detecting large particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts in smoldering fires. Sources of smoldering fires may include cigarettes burning in couches or bedding.

Flaming fires erupt far more quickly. Ionization Sensing Technology is generally more sensitive than Photoelectric Sensing Technology at detecting small particles, which tend to be produced in greater amounts by flaming fires that consume combustible materials rapidly and spread quickly. Sources of flaming fires may include papers burning in a wastebasket or a grease fire in the kitchen.

Smoke particles of varying number and size are produced in all fires. It is important to note that all smoke alarms are designed to detect particles of smoke, regardless of the alarm's type.

"Because one can't be sure what type of fire might start in the home, installing both Ionization and Photoelectric Sensing Technologies provides maximum protection," said Deb Hanson, director of external affairs at BRK Brands, Inc., manufacturer of First Alert® home-safety products. "We also emphasize that every

Smoke alarms with both Photoelectric and Ionization Sensing Technologies provide the maximum in fire-safety protection.

homeowner install the recommended number of alarms throughout the home and in the proper locations."

Dual sensing smoke alarms, which feature both Ionization and Photoelectric Sensing Technology in the same alarm, are available. One such alarm is the First Alert SA302 Smoke Alarm, which has both Ionization and Photoelectric Sensing Technologies in one unit. An added benefit of this alarm is that it is the only alarm that can be temporarily silenced or tested with a standard TV or VCR remote control.

But installing smoke alarms is not enough. Testing and maintaining smoke alarms dramatically increases the chances of surviving a fire. The following are some safety tips, including tips on smoke alarm installation, maintenance recommendations and general fire safety:

• Install UL-listed smoke alarms with both Photoelectric and Ionization Sensing Technology on every level of your home for maximum protection.

• Have a smoke alarm in every bedroom.

• Test your smoke alarms every month.

• Change the batteries in your smoke alarms every six months.

• Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen.

• Create and practice a home escape plan at least twice a year, making sure everyone is involved—from kids to grandparents. When doing this, keep in mind the following:

- Be sure to have two exits out of every room.

- Teach children to feel if a door is hot before opening and to stay low to the ground when exiting.

- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping.

- It is recommended that you hold a fire drill while family members are sleeping in order to determine their response to the sound of the smoke alarm while sleeping and to determine whether they may need assistance in the event of an emergency.

- Smoke alarms may not wake all individuals. If children or others do not readily wake to the sound of the smoke alarm or if there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them during a fire drill and in the event of an emergency.

To learn more about protecting your family from smoke, fire and carbon monoxide, visit the Web site at www.firstalert.com.