



## Smoke Detectors

### Ionization vs Photoelectric

All smoke detectors are NOT created equally. While many of the ionization detectors are less expensive, they don't protect you as well as the photoelectric versions. There are many documented cases where the ionization detectors did not set off the alarm until AFTER the fire department arrived or were set off at all.

We've put together some quick stats for those of you who like facts & figures! **United States: (2005-2009)**

- 96% of homes have smoke alarms.
- Ionization type smoke alarms are installed in 90% of homes.
- 20% of these smoke alarms don't work because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.
- People were most likely to disconnect batteries because of nuisance false alarms.
- 73% of nuisance false alarms were due to cooking.
- 24% of home fire deaths occurred in homes in which smoke alarms were present but failed to operate.

With these stats in mind, consider these:

- **Photoelectric** smoke alarms reduce nuisance false alarms like those from cooking by an average of 72%!
- **Photoelectric** smoke alarms are, on average, 77% less likely to be disabled for any reason than ionization smoke alarms!

Sources:

- *"NFPA: Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires" Marty Ahrens Issued: September 2011)*
- *Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms in rural Alaskan homes* [Thomas M Fazzini](#), Injury Prevention Specialist,<sup>1</sup> [Ron Perkins](#), Director,<sup>2</sup> and [David Grossman](#), Co-Director<sup>3</sup>
- King County, Washington by the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center 2000-2002
- US Experience With Smoke Alarms And Other Fire Detection Alarm Equipment; NFPA2004
- [www.photoelectricsaves.com](http://www.photoelectricsaves.com)

Download the sources here: [NFPASmokeAlarmsAhrens2011](#) [Alaska Study King County, Washington by the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center 2000-2002](#) [US EXPERIENCE WITH SMOKE ALARMS AND OTHER FIRE DETECTION ALARM EQUIPMENT NFPA2004](#)

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