

## THE ROLE OF UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES IN AMERICA'S DEADLIEST FRAUD

“...falsified performance claims and intentionally defective fire tests at Underwriters' Laboratories has been the underlying cause of tens of thousands of fire deaths within the United States...”

*Richard M Patton, FPE*

**PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THIS MESSAGE  
SEND THIS DOCUMENT TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!**

'TheRoleOfULInAmericasDeadliestFraud.pdf' Last Updated: 15Mar05

Latest Version At: [www.FireCrusade.com/docs](http://www.FireCrusade.com/docs)

**NOTE:** All Crusade documents have been 'Digitally Updated' for convenience and ease of reading. Formatting style has been standardized and the text in the digitized documents, in some cases, has had minor modifications. Original documents are on file and available upon request (see back page for more).

## THE CRUSADE AGAINST FIRE DEATHS INC.



**Richard M Patton**  
Crusade Founder  
Fire Protection Engineer



**Fighting To Protect You And Your Family**

Patton's 'Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.' started in 1976 when he sent 3,000 'Smoke Alarm Fraud' reports to Fire Chiefs and fire Engineers across the USA.

Patton's relentless 30 year fire industry Crusade was the inspiration behind the new documentary 'Stop The Children Burning' (see back page for more).

For more information visit our web site at: [www.FireCrusade.com](http://www.FireCrusade.com)

## THE ROLE OF UL IN AMERICA'S DEADLIEST FRAUD

The marketing of a defective smoke detector, based on falsified performance claims and intentionally defective fire tests at Underwriters' Laboratories (UL), has been the underlying cause of tens of thousands of fire deaths within the United States, over a period of many years. Small children below school age have been especially vulnerable to fire because of this deadly fraud.

The evidence of criminal activity relative this endangerment of the public is very extensive, but it has been suppressed. Here I will give but a tiny percent of the evidence of criminal activity that I have uncovered by my investigations. Here is the story:

1. On December 1, 1958, a fire in the Lady of Angeles School, Chicago, killed 95 children and teachers.
2. During the spring and summer of 1959, the Los Angeles Fire Department set real fires in a real school (not in use) to determine how to prevent future disasters.
3. Upon concluding the testing, the fire officials wrote two books describing the tests and conclusions (Operation School Burning and Operation School Burning No. 2). One major conclusion was that in order for exits to be used as escape routes, the smoke density (light reduction per foot) must not exceed 4 percent (40 percent reduction in visibility in 10 feet).
4. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) endorsed this limit as being the maximum to be tolerated along an exit path for safe exiting.
5. The manufacturers of the ionization-type smoke detector, for a period exceeding five years, claimed that their detectors would sound 'even before the smoke could be seen or smelled', (an incredibly rapid response to fire, if true). Also, they claimed, repeatedly, that their detectors would operate at or below 2 percent smoke obscuration (half the 'limit to visibility' set by the IAFC).
6. The truth that was concealed from the fire officials and the public is that when being tested at Underwriters Laboratories for a response to FLAMING TYPE FIRES, the smoke density was allowed to go as high as 37 percent (nine times higher than the IAFC set limit for conditions that would allow exiting).
7. To realize how obnoxious a 37 percent light reduction per foot is, consider that a tall basketball player holding a basketball at arms length would not be able to see the basketball (visibility less than three feet). Yet, UL was 'listing' (approving) the device and allowing the 'UL Label' to be imprinted on the box that contained the smoke detector.
8. The manufacturers of the ionization-type smoke detector were also claiming that the device would detect the type of smoke produced by a smoldering fire, such as one caused by a cigarette in a sofa or on bedding. The truth was that UL was not even testing the device's ability to detect the 'large particulate type smoke' which was the type of smoke produced by a smoldering fire. So, the manufacturers were claiming what was NOT being tested at UL.
9. About ten years after the detectors were first being sold (into millions of American homes), finally a test program (Dunes Tests) was conducted, including smoldering-type fires.
10. During the Dunes Tests the average length of time for an ionization-type smoke detector to activate in a smoldering fire EXCEEDED ONE HOUR. In other words, if a sleeping person depended on an ionization detector to warn him to a smoldering fire involving the living room sofa or upholstered chair, he might be dead before the

ionization-type smoke detector operated. But, the Dunes Tests researchers, for whatever reason, lied about the results. Apparently they hoped no one would go behind their conclusions and actually check out the computer generated data at the back of the report.

11. Finally, with the detectors inability to detect the smoldering fire revealed to some who were watching (even thought the researchers were trying to conceal the failures), UL had to create a 'smoldering fire' test.
12. If UL management admitted that it has been 'approving' the use of an ionization-type smoke detector for detecting smoldering fires for 10 years without actually testing it for that ability, law suits might have been numerous. So UL created a 'phony' smoldering fire test.
13. The test consisted of putting Ponderosa Pine sticks on a hot plate and heating them up near to or at 700 degrees F. At that high temperature, the sticks smoked profusely, but the temperature was not high enough to produce flaming. Underwriters' Laboratories called this 'roasting of the wood' test a 'smoldering fire' test. But, the smoke produced by Ponderosa Pine sticks being roasted at 700 degrees F. is not the same type of smoke as that created by a real smoldering fire such as a cigarette in a sofa or on bedding. At low temperatures, a real smoldering fire creates 'large particulate smoke', a type of smoke that the ionization detector will fail to detect.
14. The Dunes Test engineers, who lied about the performance of the smoke detector, hiding the fact that it failed to perform in accordance with the manufacturer's performance claims just about 100 percent of the time, also falsified the tests and lied in order to remove the very reliable heat detectors from the then existing fire code.
15. Generally, the Dunes Test deceivers 'proved' the heat detector had little value by testing it against fires of the type that produced virtually no heat. But, the purpose of the heat detector is to warn of the hot flaming fire that is so very dangerous. It can produce temperatures above 2000 degrees at the ceiling and quickly initiate flashover. For good measure, the deceivers, REMOVED the heat detectors from the test rooms when real flaming fires were set.
16. For reasons never explained, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) continued to promote and help sell the ionization-type smoke detector even after the tests proved it to be near useless for detecting most fires. Because this defective detector that has caused so many deaths frequently false alarms to non-fire conditions, the consumers think that it will reliably detect REAL fires. Why did the IAFC promote a defective detector after its defects were revealed? Was it payoffs? Was it because the fire officials did not wish to warn the public that the device was so seriously defective, after having already promoted it for about 10 years (from the mid 1960s until the Dunes Tests during the mid 1970s)?

For whatever reason, the IAFC, and therefore down through the ranks to the local fire officials, the fire services are continuing to hide from the public the dangers, the deaths and the injuries that are resulting from the marketing of a defective, and often never-sounding, smoke detector.



**Richard M Patton**  
Registered Fire Protection Engineer  
President, Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

# The International Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.

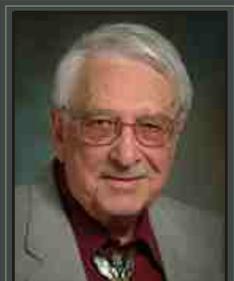
## THE CRUSADE

***“In 1980 The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) said they could take no other course but to recommend photoelectric smoke alarms. Since then, despite overwhelming evidence of defects, more than 50,000 deaths and 250,000 injuries have occurred in homes ‘protected’ by ionisation alarms”.*** *Richard M Patton, F.P.E.*



For more information about the Crusade visit us at:  
[www.FireCrusade.com](http://www.FireCrusade.com)

## THE FOUNDER



**Richard M Patton**  
Fire Protection Engineer

In August 2001, the ‘Fire Protection Contractor’ Magazine named Richard M Patton, ‘Person of the Year’. Patton’s ‘Crusade Against Fire Deaths’ started in 1976 when he sent 3,000 ‘Smoke Alarm Fraud’ reports to Fire Chiefs and Fire Engineers across the U.S. Patton’s relentless 30 year fire industry crusade was the inspiration behind the revealing fire safety documentary ‘*Stop The Children Burning.*’

***“What Dick Patton has to say ... should be the starting point for a full-fledged investigation ... at a senior government level - with qualified professionals...”***

*Garth Stouffer, Manitoba Sun Newspaper*

### EXPERT WITNESS

Mr Patton has been involved in court cases involving death and injury as a result of defective fire protection equipment. In *every* case when Mr Patton has laid out the evidence against the fire industry the case has been settled out of court in favor of the plaintiff. Mr Patton is available at:

#### **Crusade Against Fire Deaths Inc.**

P.O. Box 196 Citrus Heights,  
CA 95611-0196, U.S.A.

Phone: (916) 721 7700 Fax: (916) 721 7704

Email: [firecrusade@lanset.com](mailto:firecrusade@lanset.com)

Web: [www.FireCrusade.com](http://www.FireCrusade.com) [www.ExpertClick.com](http://www.ExpertClick.com)

## POSITION STATEMENTS

### The Radioactive Ionisation Smoke Alarm **THE SILENT KILLER**



The Crusade contends that decades of scientific testing and evidence from tens of thousands of ‘real world’ fire deaths, substantiates conclusively, that the ionization smoke detector is proven to be defective in BOTH smouldering and fast flaming fires! Radioactive, ionization alarms have kept proper fire protection out of the home and should be banned.

### **DOMESTIC SPRINKLERS**

Sprinkler systems protect hundreds of millions of people daily in commercial buildings - but over 90% of fire deaths occur at home. Less than 1% of homes have sprinklers. Technology exists for home owners to economically self-install a domestic sprinkler system, that together with proper fire detectors, could almost eliminate home fire deaths.