



29 December, 2011

Mr Michael Barnes
State Coroner
Office of the State Coroner
GPO Box 1649, Brisbane, QLD 4001
By Email: state.coroner@justice.qld.gov.au

Teewantin Fire Deaths: Rachael, Sage, Willow & Starlia Golinski

Dear Mr Barnes

The World Fire Safety Foundation is a non profit global organisation, dedicated to saving lives by revealing the truth about the ionization type of smoke alarm installed in almost all Australian homes and promoting the safe and affordable alternatives.

Regarding the above deceased residents from Jacaranda Place, Teewantin, [The Australian](#) story of 27 Dec, 2011 stated: "**Other neighbours reported hearing smoke alarms and then, almost immediately, screaming from inside the home.**"

We are interested in this fire in relation to smoke alarms. In the article on page 4 of this document, please note the claim made on the lead story of the Channel 9, 6pm News on 10, May, 2011, "... the ionization alarms have failed* Australian Standards since 1993." I spoke about the flawed Australian Smoke Alarm Standard in an ABC radio interview this morning. I will update this document with a link to the radio interview as soon as it becomes available.

Information about Australia's flawed Smoke Alarm Standard (AS3786) and the flawed Smoke Alarm Sensitivity Testing Standard (AS2362.17) is at: www.theWFSF.org/sa

Would you please advise if the remains of any smoke alarms were found, and if so whether or not they were the ionization type (Note: ionization alarms have a steel ionization chamber which is usually recoverable after a fire, even one as ferocious as the Golinski's).

A law suit was lodged in Alabama, USA today. This has a direct bearing on this inquiry. It is alleged that Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the world's largest testing agency of ionization smoke alarms, is "negligent or wanton . . . by failing to formulate and implement safety standards for ionization smoke alarms that require ionization smoke alarms to detect slow smoldering fires in a timely manner and to sound in a timely manner in the presence of smoke as opposed to flame. . ."** Many of the ionization smoke alarms sold in Australia carry the UL 'seal of approval'. The law suit is here: www.theWFSF.org/ulsued

We respectfully request a copy of the Coronial findings when they become available.

Thank you.

Sincerely
The World Fire Safety Foundation

Adrian Butler
Chairman, Co-Founder, Former Fire Fighter
The World Fire Safety Foundation
PO Box 170, Wondai, QLD 4606
www.TheWorldFireSafetyFoundation.org

*unable to pass the scientific tests for visible smoke

**Hosford vs BRK & UL et al Amended Complaint, page 14, clause 47c

- See Sunshine Coast Daily Story, [Furies Critical of Older Alarms](#), 30 Dec, 2011

- Note: This 'living document' may be updated as more information comes available (see below)

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the

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volunteer fire fighter

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Official magazine of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association



Volunteer Representation
NSW RFS State Forum Reform Paper

Volunteer Fire Fighters
and Injury Compensation

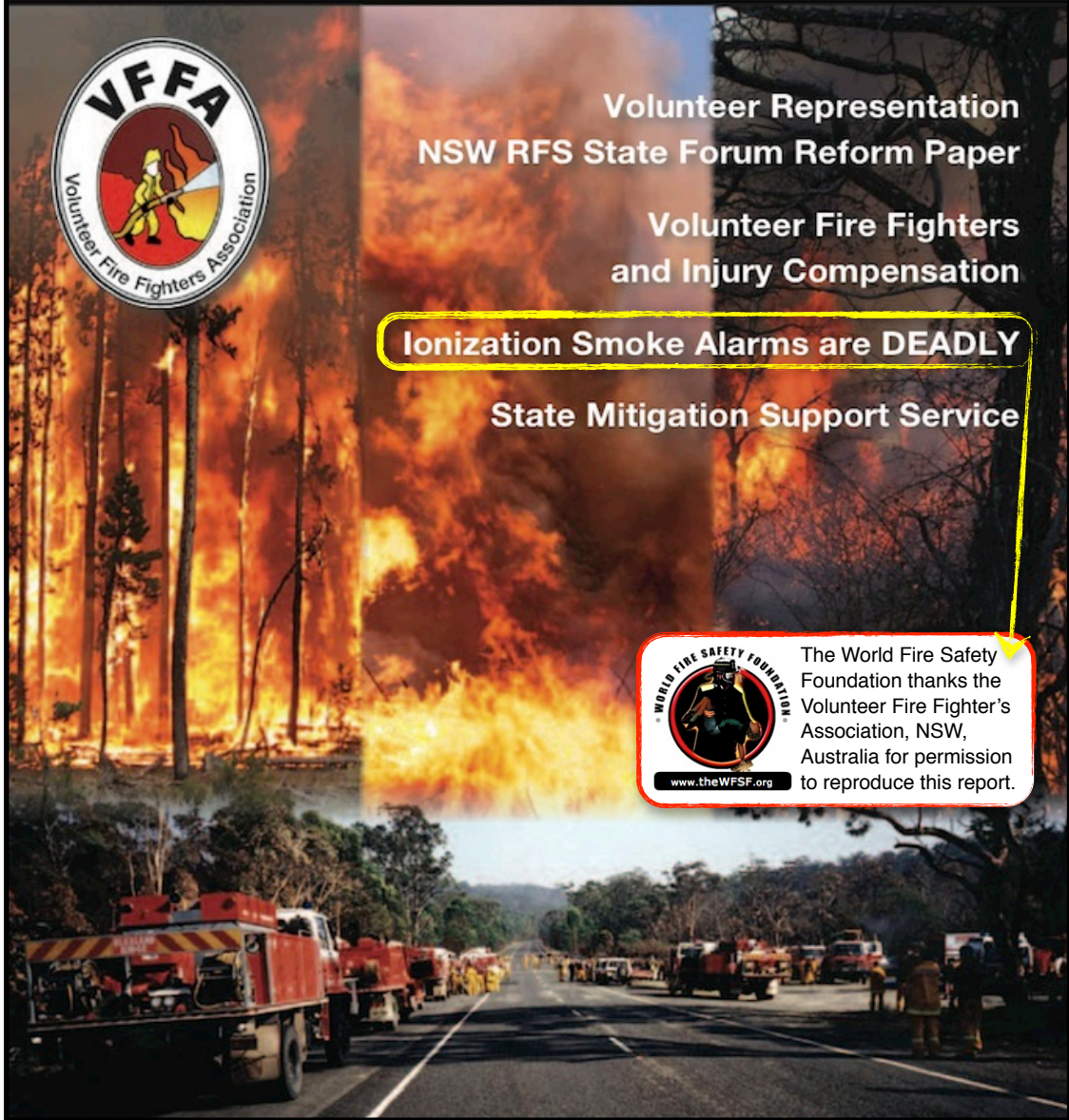
Ionization Smoke Alarms are DEADLY

State Mitigation Support Service



The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks the Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association, NSW, Australia for permission to reproduce this report.

www.theWFSF.org



Other World Fire Safety Foundation Reports:

Why are the Public, Fire Fighters and Fire Industry Personnel, STILL Not Being Told the Truth about Smoke Alarms?

VFFA Magazine, Summer 2010
Fire Industry 'Big Lies' exposed including claim smoke alarms have reduced fire deaths 50%

[More >>>](#)

THE COMBO CON
Combination Ionization/Photoelectric Smoke Alarms
Why the International Association of Fire Chiefs Said "No."

VFFA Magazine, Winter 2011
Why combination ionization/photoelectric smoke alarms are great for manufacturers, but bad for fire fighters and the public.

[More >>>](#)

There are two completely different types of smoke alarms:

- The Ionization *type* are in almost every home.
- The Photoelectric *type* are in almost every commercial building.

Ionization Smoke Alarms are DEADLY

It's time to tell the public the truth! . . .



“**Ionization** smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smouldering fires.”

Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council's official position on smoke alarms, June, 2006

AFAC is the peak representative body of all Australian & New Zealand Fire Brigades:
www.theWFSF.org/afac

“The public have been misled into believing that **ionization** smoke alarms are safe.”

David Isaac, Standards Australia Committee FP002 Member, NSW, Australia, August, 2006

See the film, Ionization Smoke Alarms are DEADLY:
www.theWFSF.org





“I think the **ionization** alarm is responsible for as many as 10,000 deaths since 1990.”

*Chief Jay Fleming, Boston Fire Department
Massachusetts, USA, December, 2007*

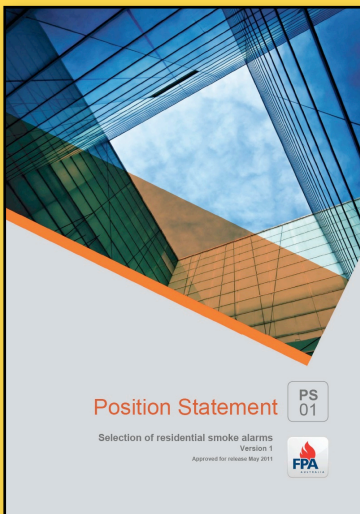
Deadly Smoke Detectors TV series:
www.theWFSF.org/cbs

“...the **ionization** alarms have failed* Australian Standards since 1993.”

*Unable to pass the scientific tests for visible smoke

*Darren Curtis, Senior Reporter
Channel 9 News QLD, Australia, May, 2011*

Australia’s Flawed Smoke Alarm Standard:
www.theWFSF.org/sa



“...all residential buildings should be fitted with **photoelectric** smoke alarms. . .”

*Fire Protection Association Australia
official position on smoke alarms, May, 2011*

FPAA Position Statement:
www.theWFSF.org/fpaa



“. . . it’s about recall: it’s about banning the **ionization** technology and only having the **photoelectric** technology.”

*Chief Marc McGinn, Albany Fire Department, CA, USA
Today Tonight, Australia, June, 2011*

Today Tonight story:
www.theWFSF.org/tourstory2



“For early warning and less nuisance alarms replace your smoke alarm with a **photoelectric** type.”

Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS) brochure sent to every Queensland home, October, 2011

QFRS Photoelectric Campaign:
www.theWFSF.org/qfrspromo

“The **photoelectric** type of alarm is strongly favoured by Fire Services everywhere...”

Mick Ayer, Assistant Director, Northern Territory Fire & Rescue Service, Darwin, NT, October 2011

NT's Photoelectric Legislation:
www.theWFSF.org/legislation_au_nt

Ionization Smoke Alarms are DEADLY



Peter Cannon
 President, VFFA

“We’re going to tell the public the truth!

Check out our TV campaign. See how the VFFA and the World Fire Safety Foundation are going to tell the public the truth about ionization smoke alarms - and how you can help us.”

NFPTV.COM
 Free TV Ads for Your Not-For-Profit favourite



VFFA TV Campaign:
www.NFPTV.com/vffa