

## “An Annoying Sound That Can Save Your Life”

There is a silent killer on the loose. It is translucent, inodorous, and insidious when it strikes. It cuts off the life giving oxygen in your blood preventing it from reaching your vital organs causing permanent damage or even death. Home fires are dangerous enough, but the smoke that is produced carries carbon monoxide, the silent killer. To prevent loss of life due to fires or taken by fire's evil friend carbon monoxide, install a smoke alarm that will chirp, beep or screech alerting you to a burning problem. People need to be responsible to prevent home fires by using a smoke alarm in their homes. People can become more responsible by alerting residents of invisible carbon monoxide gas and by installing a smoke alarm as it will prevent nighttime fires.

To begin with, to prevent carbon monoxide gas from killing you or causing permanent damage to you in your sleep, install a smoke alarm that will not only detect smoke given off by a fire, but also its sinister accomplice, carbon monoxide. Imagine it is the middle of winter, and animals outside are seeking warmth. Birds gather around the rim of your chimney finding warmth. Overcome by the fumes released from your furnace, they pass out and fall into the abyss better known as your chimney. They become the first victim of the silent killer carbon monoxide.

As these victims lifeless corpses obstruct your flue; carbon monoxide is channeled back into your home. The carbon monoxide is now going to be circulated throughout your house by the blower in your furnace. Carbon monoxide

has now seeped into every crack and crevice of your house. You do not know about this problem; so you go to bed never to wake up again the next morning. If you had followed your fire chief's number one rule of always have a working smoke alarm in your home, this type of scenario would have never occurred. According to Cortez Trotter, Fire Chief of the Chicago Fire Department, too many people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning, when it can be easily prevented. To prevent similar scenarios and to give you peace of mind, install smoke alarms throughout your house that will warn you of carbon monoxide.

In addition to alerting you to the silent killer, smoke alarms also work just as well to alert you of nighttime fires. Now imagine this, it is the dead of night and your pet cat Garfield is looking for your attention. Garfield is on your dresser ready to jump on you to wake you up, but he accidentally knocks over the lamp you left on to read. Garfield then runs out of the room. Meanwhile, you never heard the lamp hit the floor because it landed on a soft, extremely flammable pillow, next to a pile of dirty clothes near your door.

Suddenly, your pillow catches fire. At this the point, your smoke alarm would have gone off, but wait, I forgot, you don't have a smoke detector! Next your pile of dirty, stinky clothes catches fire, and you soon wake due to the acrid odor that is coming from a sock that has been fermenting in its own juices for two years. You now make a break for the door to escape. You soon realize that the door is shrouded in flames. You now have no escape. Your room is engulfed in flames.

Your clothes catch fire, and you black out; you are now dead. Know that all of this could have been avoided if you would have put up that smoke detector you had been talking about for two and a half years. I bet if you knew two and a half years ago that ninety nine percent of all nighttime house fire deaths are attributed to nonworking or nonexistent smoke alarms. I bet if you knew that statistic two years ago, you would have dropped everything and installed that inexpensive life saving device, better known as a smoke alarm. Thus, if every person in the United States would install a smoke detector in their homes, the death toll of nighttime fires would decrease by ninety percent.

In conclusion, to prevent your dream home, pets, valuables, heirlooms, and worst case scenario, your life from being devoured by a raging inferno, install a smoke alarm that will beep, screech, chirp, alerting you to a burning problem in its infancy . To prevent loss of life due to fire's evil friend, carbon monoxide. People need to be responsible home owners and install a smoke alarm in their homes. Don't add to the grim statistics regarding fire related deaths. Be proactive and heed the National Fire Protection Association's advice and listen for the beep, screech, buzz and realize that they are sounds that you can live with at home.

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