

America's Deadliest Betrayal

Part One:

How Fire Officials Helped Kill Over 500,000
Americans and Exported Their Corruption Globally

by

Richard M. Patton FPE

"This report explains how greed and betrayal by fire industry officials has been responsible for countless deaths, injuries and loss of property - most of which could and should have been prevented."

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"Which is the greater crime; killing seven people with Tylenol laced with cyanide, or killing an estimated 80,000 Americans by selling or promoting defective (ionization) smoke detectors into over one hundred million U.S. homes?"

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About the Author

Richard M. Patton was born in 1925. In 1951 he graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, USA) with a degree in Fire Protection Engineering.

In 1976 he became the first person in the world to expose the life-threatening defects of ionization smoke alarms. He was also the first person in the world to produce and install residential sprinkler systems.

He is actively involved as a fire protection campaigner. He lives with his wife in Sacramento County, California, USA.

Richard M. Patton FPE testifying about Underwriters Laboratories (UL) flawed Smoke Alarm Standard (UL217) at Albany City Council's [Public Hearing](#) in July 2010 which led to Albany, California becoming the first U.S. city to introduce photoelectric-only smoke alarm legislation.

FOREWORD

When I was a kid I had my heroes. I vividly recall those bright red fire trucks with their masses of gleaming chrome, the uniforms, the brass fire house pole, the lights, the sirens ... the door going up as the firehouse bell rang ... but most of all I recall those men who to me at the time looked to be nine feet tall, with big chests and arms stacked with powerful muscles.

Make no mistake, despite the fact that real fire fighters may not be as buff ... they are heroes. However, there is another side to the fire service that is seldom seen by the public. A side that can be arrogant, belligerent, and loathe to admit when they're wrong lest they tarnish their public image.

For many what Richard Patton exposes in this two part report will be hard to believe. I know that when I first met with Richard seventeen years ago I shook my head in disbelief. I was new to dealing with these organisations that Richard calls 'Club Fire'. However, nearly 20 years on, as unpalatable as it is, the truth of what Richard Patton shares in these pages should herald a call for change.

Richard is the industry's 'Inside Man' who started blowing the whistle on Club Fire fifty years ago. One would have thought that if anyone would be listened to, it would be Richard. Over the years, many in 'Club Fire' have told us that we need to put distance between ourselves and Patton if we hope to get them to listen.

Instead of taking heed of his whistle-blowing, Patton has been ignored, despised, and even vilified by those in Club Fire.

We discussed this with Richard, and for a while we did publicly distance ourselves in order to try to gain traction with our dealings with Club Fire around the world (see message below), while a deep and enduring friendship continued to grow behind the scenes.

However, it became apparent that the stonewalling, the deceit, the face-saving, that Patton had encountered rarely gave way regardless. Sadly, for Club Fire, saving face has taken precedence over saving lives.

Patton's contribution to fire safety is far-reaching. Despite opposition of Club Fire, Patton has revolutionised the fire safety industry and drastically reduced the number of fire deaths, injury and property loss globally — and at significant cost-savings to the consumer.

I am proud to be Richard's friend and to be known as such. There are few real heroes in this world. Few who accept the call. Fewer who survive the trials and tribulations, the public rejection, the derision and scorn of their peers to continue the fight despite personal loss.

Richard M. Patton is one of the few.



Karl Westwell
Co-Founder, Research Director
World Fire Safety Foundation
New Zealand | 28 June 2017

Karl Westwell

BEFORE YOU READ THIS REPORT / DISCLAIMER

- The World Fire Safety Foundation (WFSF) acknowledges that over 99% of firefighters around the world are heroes who selflessly risk their lives to save ours. Chances are firefighters who recommend, promote or defend ionization smoke alarms are victims of, and unwitting accomplices to, the ionization smoke alarm fraud.
- The WFSF thanks Mr Patton for the right to edit this report. **The message in this report applies globally.** See the [WFSF's letters](#) to Underwriters Laboratories (UL).



34:35

"The corruption that occurred within the U.S. in terms of falsifying the performance of heat and smoke detectors, that's been exported. We exported our corruption. We exported it to Australia, we exported it to New Zealand."

See the WFSF's Documentary: **STOP THE CHILDREN BURNING**

www.TheWFSF.org/stcb



Richard M. Patton FPE

AMERICA'S DEADLIEST BETRAYAL

Part One: How Fire Officials Helped Kill Over 500,000 Americans and Exported Their Corruption Globally

“I would like to say we invented the concept (of a residential fire sprinkler system) but we didn't. Instead, we borrowed it from a gentleman by the name of Richard M. Patton.”
'Alpha to Omega - The Evolution in Residential Fire Protection' Ronny J Coleman, Former CA State Fire Marshal & President IAFC | 1985

“In 1976 Richard Patton became the first person to expose the ionization smoke alarm fraud when he distributed his 'Patton Report No. 49 - [The Smoke Detector Fraud](#)' to 3,000 fire officials across America.”
Adrian Butler, Chairman, World Fire Safety Foundation, Queensland, Australia | July 2017

“My calculations, based on the best available loss data, indicate that from 1900 until today, more than 500,000 lives were lost to fires within American homes. Further, approximately three million suffered serious burns with many spending prolonged and painful stays in burn wards.

This two-part report explains how greed and betrayal by fire industry officials has been responsible for countless deaths, injuries and loss of property - most of which could and should have been prevented.”

Richard M. Patton FPE | Sacramento County, CA, USA. | 28 June 2017

Fire is Faster than Fire Trucks

The number one reason for fire deaths caused by building fires, is that fire is faster than fire trucks. From the time when a flame first appears until **flashover** occurs, it is often less than five minutes (flashover is the near-simultaneous ignition of most of the directly exposed combustible material in an enclosed area). Once flashover occurs within a home, death follows very rapidly.

Heat rises to the ceiling and then when the ceiling temperature is at 1,000 to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit the radiation from above will suddenly ignite all combustible material within the room. The rapid overpressure within the fire room will then send black smoke, deadly gases (many types), and deadly heat racing down hallways into every area of the home. Victims may make it to an exit but then they can be suddenly struck by combustion gases so hot that the hair on their head will flash and they may be dropped in their tracks. Temperatures of a thousand degrees and more are quick to kill.

This 3 minute [U.S. government video](#) explains flashover.

Have You Been Misled?

It is absolutely impossible for a fire department located distant from a burning building to guarantee safety for the occupants within a home, even if the home is across the street from the station. The fire department serving the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas was right across the street from the hotel. Yet this fire was one of the most horrific fires with 85 dead and 650 injured. The truth is that if you are not out on the front lawn when the first fire truck arrives, chances are you may be coming out horizontally. Some Fire officials worry that you, the endangered citizen, may eventually become aware that the odds of firefighters arriving in time to save lives is far less than you have been led to believe.

If and when proper and affordable 'within the home protection' is allowed, the shift of the primary life safety protection from outside/distant from the home, to within the home will occur. So far the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have been successful at preventing affordable, almost 100% reliable protection from entering the home.

The Reality of Fire Within the Home

For many years fire chiefs have been promoting the idea that a local fire station is strategically located so that the **“Response Time”** to nearly all homes will be a mere five minutes or less. Also, for decades until I began to reveal the truth, **room flashover** was a **“never to be discussed phenomenon”**. The fact that a tiny fire could grow so fast that an entire room could become an inferno, a virtual hurricane of death, within a mere five minutes from ignition, was intentionally concealed from the public. Of course, during much of the transition from a 'tiny' fire to a 'sudden death' fire, occupants could be totally unaware of its existence; especially at night.

Thus, from the moment occupants become aware of the fire, in many cases the time to round up the kids, or just to safely get out yourself, is very short. However, it was not to the advantage of the fire chief to educate the public regarding the reality of the house fire. Many people believe that a fire's growth is slow enough and the response of the firefighters is fast enough; thus convincing you that when fire happens within your home you and your children will be saved. The premise that a remote fire station adequately protects human life is a myth. **Unfortunately, the public believes those who profit and benefit from fire.**

The 'Response-Time' Con

A fire department's goal is to have a **'Response-Time'** from the nearest firehouse to the burning building of five minutes or less. However, It is the **'Free-Burn'** that is of a life or death nature. Free-Burn time is the time from the first initiation of smoke or flame until:

- it is discovered,
- a 911 call is made,
- notification is relayed from the 911 headquarters to the nearest fire station,
- fire trucks are manned, leave the station and arrive at the scene of the burning building,
- fire hydrants are located,
- the pumper(s) is/are hooked up to hydrant(s),

- hose lines are laid out and connected to the pumper, and
- water is finally applied to the fire.

The fire will continue to grow and possibly to cause deaths until water is actually applied to the fire and it is extinguished. When there is a major fire, it is usually only after hose lines are in play to reduce the exposing heat, that the building is entered and a rescue effort (if needed) is initiated.

The 'con' is the 'five minute response-time'. Fire chiefs promote the idea that they will arrive to save you within five minutes. However, the actual time for help to arrive is often from ten minutes to more than half an hour.

The Ultimate Solution to Fire

There is only one way to bring American fire losses and fire deaths down to approaching zero and that is to put protection **within the building** to be protected. It is logical and sensible to put a fire out when it is still small and easy to snuff out. And there is an automatic way to immediately put water on the early fire - a fire sprinkler system. A fire sprinkler system puts water spray on the early fire when it is still small. It prevents the fire from becoming deadly.

There is statistical evidence confirming that a fire sprinkler system can terminate the early fire without deaths or serious injuries occurring better than 99% of the time. This means that there is a near 100% solution to the home fire problem.

Society would be overjoyed if there was a 99% plus solution to cancer. But there is no joy among the members of **Club Fire** because this close to perfect solution to fire exists. If a better solution to the home fires was allowed, their perks, pay checks, prestige and retirement benefits would likely be reduced.

So, the easy solution was to create fire codes that blocked the design and installation of affordable and properly engineered fire sprinkler systems for homes. From 1896 onward the **NFPA** and **IAFC** have cooperated in creating fire codes specifically intended to **prevent** the design and installation of affordable engineered fire sprinkler systems for homes.

Another Near-Perfect Solution Denied

The early fire could also be controlled manually by the occupants when still small. A complete and reliable fire detection system within the home would alert the occupants to the very early fire. And, if proper fire control equipment also was available that early, tiny and easy to kill fire could be terminated promptly. Often one glass of water could terminate the threat and the man of the home could go back to sleep. An "at the ready" small hose and spray nozzle located in the laundry room or garage would be super reliable at quickly terminating the early small fire. A small water-based extinguisher with a chemical to reduce surface tension would be ideal for suppressing a smoldering fire such as one started by a lit cigarette on an upholstered sofa.

From the time when the insurance industry first created the NFPA (America's fire code writing organization) until 1966 the NFPA code blocked the installation of fire detectors and/or fire detection systems in homes. Even though 95% of all fire deaths (caused by **building** fires) occurred within homes, the fire chiefs of America remained acquiescent to zero protection in the home; no sprinklers and no fire detection systems in homes.

Proof of a Willingness to Kill Children by the Thousands

During 1966, as a chairman of codes that defined fire detection systems for industrial and commercial properties, I created the first ever fire detection code for homes (NFPA Code 74). I caught the top gurus of protection by surprise by fast-tracking the code through to adoption before they fully realized what was happening and before adequate opposition was mobilized. But I underestimated the wrath and the fury of those who are determined to keep the home fires burning. Within weeks I was stripped of all my NFPA code assignments and the organized effort to gut the code I had created began.

Because it would have not been politically correct to simply delete the NFPA 74 Code, **the strategy was to 'improve it to death'**. In time the code calling for a complete and reliable fire detection system throughout the home was reduced to calling for one smoke detector located at the top of the stairway protecting an entire two story home. And the most incredible part of this travesty is that the so-called smoke detector to sit at the top of the stairway was a phony (ionization) smoke detector that has been proven to be incapable of detecting real (visible) smoke. This one fire regulatory fraud (among many) has so far resulted in the deaths of 40,000 American children (below teen age).

The Official Cover-Up of a Deadly Operation

During 1978 **IAFC** and California Fire Chiefs Association (**Cal-Chiefs**) conducted a one million dollar series of live fire tests referred to as the '**Cal-Chiefs Tests**'. During the tests the ionization type, so-called smoke detector (the one that would supposedly protect an entire home as a single detector at the top of a stairway) proved to be very close to useless as a fire warning device. The previous well-publicized claims that it was a phony and fraudulent 'smoke' detector were confirmed to be accurate.

Following the test program the fire chief in charge of the testing, **Chief John Gerard of the Los Angeles Fire Department** **officially estimated that ionization detectors would have a 50 to 80 percent failure rate in the field.** Many reliable sources have confirmed that this so-called smoke detector is a dangerous/defective device and especially a killer of children:

www.TenantsLivesMatter.org | www.TheWFSF.org

To warn the fire officials nationally concerning the unreliable nature of the so-called (ionization) smoke detector, the IAFC and the Cal-Chiefs wrote reports and the Los Angeles and Salt Lake City Fire Departments made a video warning of the dangers associated with the device. After taking serious and meaningful steps to warn the public of the perils associated with the ionization smoke detector, apparently the fire officials had second thoughts. Presumably they became fearful that fire officials would be blamed for the many deaths that had already accrued to the fraud. So, the two reports were buried, the video "disappeared" and the fire officials initiated what qualifies as an official cover-up of the marketing of the deadly ionization smoke detector.

The Deadly Lies / Shifting the Blame

It is now nearly 40 years since IAFC and the Cal-Chiefs spent a million dollars researching the performance of the ionization smoke detector and confirmed that (as stated by the fire chief in charge) it

would have a fifty to eighty percent failure rate in the field. Since then fire chiefs have been promoting a safety device that they conclusively [proved to be defective](#).

For the lies and the cover-up to work, the fire chiefs had to develop a strategy which would allow them to shift the blame from the government to the victims. That turned out to be easy. In many fatal fires the spokesperson for the local fire department will report that **“the smoke detector was not a working smoke detector”**. True enough; but without exception the media will not be told that: **the device was “not a working smoke detector the day it went out the factory door”**.

The media often interpret the fire department comments to mean that the batteries were dead or removed, or the device had not been properly maintained. Thus, when fire deaths occur within a home protected with ionization devices, **the fault for the deaths is shifted from government to the victims, and so the fire officials remain heroes**. I do not blame the firefighters that willingly put themselves in danger; they take all the risks and they are unaware of the deception by the high level bureaucrats.

These are facts that few wish to know. Our governments have been lying to us for decades and those who we have trusted to protect us have instead betrayed us; and more than forty years after the Cal-Chiefs tests, thousands of children and adults are still needlessly dying.

The Birth and Death of a Residential Sprinkler System

Beginning as far back as 1896 America's fire code writing organization, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), created sprinkler design regulations that kept sprinklers financially prohibitive for the great majority of buildings in America. The reality was fires produced wealth for fire insurance companies and other businesses that exploited the fire industry (explained in Part Two of this report - see page 6). The fire codes became profit oriented because many businesses that made money from fire became key voting members of the committees that wrote the codes.

As an example, under NFPA sprinkler and water supply codes, the minimum water supply line (fire line) for a sprinkler system in a home would be a 4 inch pipe delivering at least 250 gallons per minute (gpm). This was more than twenty times the amount of water actually required for protecting a home with sprinklers. However, it served its purpose; the number of sprinkler protected homes in America, from the founding of the NFPA (1896) until the time when I developed an affordable system, using hydraulic engineering, in the early 1970s was **zero**.

Central Sprinkler Corporation (CPC), is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of automatic fire sprinkler systems in the U.S. Within [these letters](#) of December 1977 the President of Central Sprinkler Corp, Bill Meyers, wrote:

“Dick, you must be silently proud that home fire protection, that you have talked about and dreamed about for so many years, is now becoming a reality. You have preached this format when many of your colleagues have said that you were eccentric.

With all the problems in the world today, we feel that too few men have the courage to be eccentric.”

Myers confirmed that the materials and installation costs for the residential system I developed would total a mere \$385.00. Over the

life of a home that cost would be a tiny fraction of the monies going to fire insurance companies based on the unprotected rating.

The enormous shift of dollars coming from homeowners to the insurers was one of the primary motivations for NFPA anti-sprinkler codes. These anti-sprinkler codes were primarily written by insurance industry reps who became voting members on the NFPA code writing committees. Yes, the NFPA codes are actually **marketing tools** for those that profit and benefit from fire.

The hydraulically engineered, small-size gridded (multiple path flow) copper systems I created, could last for a hundred years with near zero maintenance. And this system would reduce the costs for fire insurance dramatically over those 100 years with very little servicing required. Obviously, this made the very powerful insurers opponents of the protection I developed. Tragically, IAFC also opposed the marketing of my systems.

The story of how those that benefited from fire, destroyed my businesses and contributed to the needless injury and death of hundreds of thousands is in Part Two of this report (see page 6).

‘Within the Home’ Protection Blocked

The reasons why I was harassed, vilified, hounded and had my fire safety businesses destroyed three times are simply because I developed affordable systems that could almost eliminate fire deaths. However, in the U.S. alone, fire is generating probably close to two hundred billion or more dollars per year. There are large and powerful corporations at the receiving end of that cash flow. And there are enormous government bureaucracies benefiting from the fire industry. The evidence shows that to date they have blocked low cost, reliable systems from homes that will almost eliminate their benefits. The home is a money tree for the fire insurance industry.

The public has been indoctrinated for decades to believe that the fire services are saving the children. Of course thousands of lives have been saved by brave, heroic firefighters. But what about all the lives needlessly lost? I realize it requires a monumental shift in beliefs to accept the reality of high level corporate greed and corruption that has actually blocked **“within the home”** protection.

Follow the money trail. When you do that you will discover the truth. The truth is so horrible that there are many who refuse to see the reality. That is why the children continue to needlessly burn.

I Say it is Murder

During 1982, seven people died after Tylenol bottles on the shelves of a Chicago drugstore were laced with cyanide. That crime is classified as **“murder”**, although the person who committed the crimes has never been identified. Which is the greater crime; killing seven people with Tylenol laced with cyanide, or killing an estimated 80,000 Americans by selling or promoting defective (ionization) smoke detectors into over one hundred million U.S. homes?

As of 1978, following the Cal-Chiefs one million dollar fire test program, the fire officials were fully aware of the dangers associated with the ionization smoke detector. The chiefs even produced two reports based on the testing warning of the inability of the ionization device to reliably warn of a fire. The fire chief in charge of the testing, Chief John Gerard, warned that the device would have a 50% to 80% failure rate. Clearly, a device to warn a family of a house fire having even a 50% failure rate is a device that is so inadequate that to promote it is to help sell random deaths, especially when a

proven, viable alternative, the photoelectric smoke detector was available.

With full knowledge of the unacceptable threat to human life, the fire chiefs hid the dangers from the public and actively promoted the device. They knew it was causing fire deaths when it frequently failed to activate during the early, smoldering stage of a fire. But they shifted the blame from the fire services to the victims by telling the press (when deaths occurred) that the device was not a **working** device which implied a dead or missing battery or a failure to maintain.

During 1986, engineers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute along with the fire marshal of Yale University and the Boston Fire Department produced a well-documented, scientific research report explaining in detail why the ionization device cannot detect real (visible) smoke. Clearly **IAFC** was aware of that report.

Since 1978 I have personally made thousands of contacts with fire officials, including letters, technical reports, data from fire tests, TV appearances (in Australia) talks, videos, emails and informative

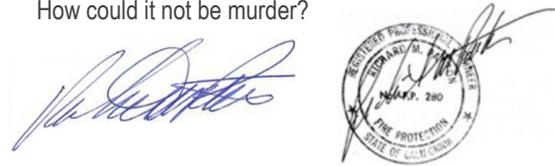
web sites. Fire officials have been continuously warned about this problem for decades. It is hard to believe that there is any fire official in any moderate to large sized U.S. city that is unaware of the dangers associated with the ionization device.

Conclusion

For nearly 40 years fire chiefs and fire officials have ignored the facts, they have ignored the warnings and they have continued to help recommend, promote, give-away or sell the deadly ionization smoke detectors to unsuspecting families while failing in their **Special Duty of Care** to warn them of the known, life-threatening limitations.

They have systematically concealed the real cause of most of the fire deaths and injuries from those endangered. The IAFC have also accepted 'contributions' from the smoke detector manufacturers. And during all the years of betrayals thousands of children have continued to needlessly die.

How could it not be murder?



Richard M. Patton

Licensed Professional Engineer (OH, USA - retired),
Currently Licensed Fire Protection Engineer (CA, USA),
Author: [The American Home is a Firetrap](#),
Sacramento County, California, USA | 28 June 2017.

Email: RMPatton7@gmail.com

America's Deadliest Betrayal - Part Two

The Beginning of a Revolution in Fire Protection

"The profits of thousands of businesses that sell their products and systems via the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire codes will be at risk if real solutions to the fire problem are allowed."**

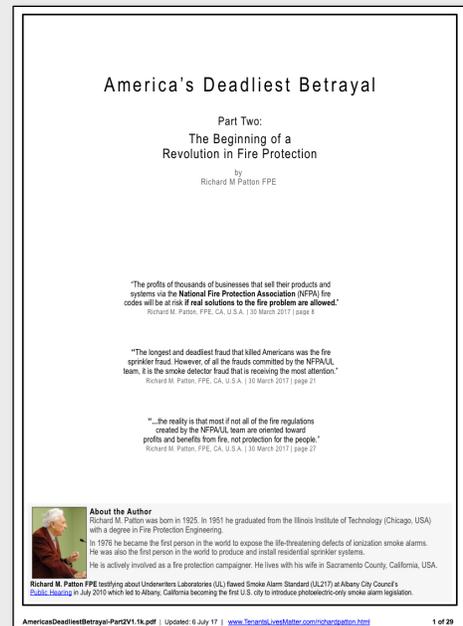
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"The longest and deadliest fraud that killed Americans was the fire sprinkler fraud. However, of all the frauds committed by the NFPA/UL team, it is the smoke detector fraud that is receiving the most attention."

Richard M. Patton, FPE, CA, U.S.A. | 30 March 2017 | page 21

"...the reality is that most if not all of the fire regulations created by the NFPA/UL team are oriented toward profits and benefits from fire, not protection for the people."

Richard M. Patton, FPE, CA, U.S.A. | 30 March 2017 | page 27



COMING SOON