

“Ionization Smoke Alarms Should Be Banned!”

Greg Mullins, Commissioner, Fire & Rescue New South Wales
President, Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council
(see page 2)



Greg Mullins
Commissioner, FRNSW
President, AFAC



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founded in March 2000, does
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CONTENTS

Description	Page
Cover Page	1
1. Commissioner Greg Mullins “Ionization Smoke Alarms Should Be Banned!”	2
2. WFSF Chairman’s Message “Ionization Smoke Alarms Should Be Banned!”	3
3. WFSF Email Is the Slogan 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives' Morally Right?	4 - 7
4. Chief Jay Fleming Boston, U.S.A. Fire Chief’s Email and Attachments	8
5. Daily Mail ‘They Are Playing Russian Roulette With Their Family’s Lives...’	9 - 13
6. Logan House Fire Support Network Debunking ‘Working Smoke Alarms’ Myth	14
7. Queensland Government World’s Strictest Smoke Alarm Legislation Becomes Law	14

1. Commissioner Greg Mullins | **“Ionization Smoke Alarms Should Be Banned.”**

Before his retirement in January 2017, Commissioner Greg Mullins was Australasia’s most senior fire official. Since December 2015 he has repeatedly warned that ionization smoke alarms should be banned:

a) At the Senate Inquiry



Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry Hearing - MFB and AFAC Testimony

Commissioner Greg Mullins
AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AUTHORITIES COUNCIL

Australian Government Smoke Alarm Senate Inquiry
4 Dec 2015 | Canberra, ACT, Australia
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/siv.html#afac

b) In the Media



Daily Mail AUSTRALIA News

'They are playing Russian roulette with their family's lives': Father of celebrity chef Matt Golinski - who lost his wife and children in a fire - warns most people are using older and unreliable smoke alarms

11 Jan 2016 | Daily News Australia | page 13

c) On TV



Commissioner Wants Most Common Smoke Alarms Banned - QLD

GREG MULLINS
NSW Fire Brigade Commissioner


QLD & NSW TV | Channel 9 News
12 January 2016 | NSW & QLD, Australia
www.TenantsLivesMatter.org/home.html#tat



Australian & N.Z. Fire Service: "Ionization alarms should be banned ..."


GREG MULLINS
COMMISSIONER, NSW FIRE & RESCUE

Australian National TV | Channel 9 - Today Show,
5 June 2016 | Sydney, NSW, Australia
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

Are You Protecting Your Family?		
	Smoke Alarm Type:	
	Photoelectric	Ionization
Environment:	100% Safe	Radioactive
False Alarms:	Few	Frequent
Failure Rate:	Low	High
Located:	Commercial Buildings	Almost Every Home
Price:	Affordable	Affordable

For more information: www.theWFSF.org/compare

2. WFSF Chairman, Adrian Butler | **“Ionization Smoke Alarms Be Banned!”**



Chairman’s Message
15 September 2017

“Ionization Smoke Alarms Should Be Banned!”

On 1 Jan 2017 the world’s strictest photoelectric-only smoke alarm legislation was enacted. It will eliminate the ionisation type of smoke alarm in most Queensland homes. (page 14).

In January 2017 Commissioner Mullins and myself appeared on Australian TV calling for a ban on ionisation smoke alarms:
www.TenantsLivesMatter.com/home.html#tat

Should ionization smoke alarms be banned? Read this report and judge for yourself. Check the Internet (see link in footer below) to make sure you have the latest version of this document (version 3.6) and please warn everyone you know.

Thank you.

Adrian Butler
Chairman, Co-Founder, Former Fire Fighter
World Fire Safety Foundation
QLD, Australia

3. World Fire Safety Foundation Email:

Is the Slogan 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives' Morally Right?

Note: Email below updated with formatting, U.S. spelling and minor adjustments for clarity. Boxes with quotes and images have been added.

Date: 24 August 2016 at 12:23 at 11:15

Subject: Is the Slogan 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives' Morally Right?

Attention:

- CPSC: Elliot Kaye, Chairman, MD USA (blind copied for anonymity),
- AFAC: Stuart Ellis, CEO, VIC, AU,
- QLD Government: The Hon Bill Byrne, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services,
 - Dominic Moore, Policy Advisor for Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES),
- QFES: Commissioner Katarina Carroll, A/C Neil Reid, and QFES Media Dept, QLD, AU,
c.c.
- FRNSW Commissioner & AFAC President, Greg Mullins, NSW, AU,
- Boston Fire Department Chief Jay Fleming, MA, USA,
- Dean Dennis, Fathers For Fire Safety, OH, USA,
- Bev Butler, WFSF FOI Officer, Dunedin, NZ,
- David Isaac, Standards Australia FP002 Committee Member, NSW, AU and
- Louie Naumovski, Founder, Logan House Fire Support Network, QLD, AU.

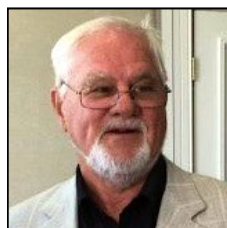
Good Morning

Is the Slogan 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives' Morally Right?

I am writing about concerns with the decades-old slogan used by all Australasian and U.S. fire departments, government agencies and the media, i.e. "*Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives.*"

Please examine this email carefully as Australian Government ([CSIRO](#)) [test data](#) provides compelling evidence that the '*Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives*' slogan is flawed which is putting lives at needless risk.

This email was inspired by Boston Fire Chief Jay Fleming's email (copied **below**). Chief Fleming's message is about an Australian [Daily Mail news article](#) telling the story of the [Tewantin Tragedy](#) where Australian celebrity chef Matt Golinski lost his wife and three young daughters in a home fitted with 'working' ionization smoke alarms. Matt's father, Keith Golinski, testified at the recent Australian Senate Hearing that ionization alarms had been installed in his own brand new home years after the deaths of his only three grandchildren.



Keith Golinski

"Mr Golinski believed people were risking not only their lives but their family's as well by using ionization alarms."

Daily News Australia | 11 Jan 2016 (see page 12)

Most members of the public have ionization smoke alarms installed in their homes (including new homes). Ionization alarms have an unacceptably high false alarm rate (see **attached** documents from Chief Fleming) which lulls the public into a false sense of security. When the public hears the "*Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives*" message they are misled into believing that their 'working' ionization smoke alarms will alert them in time to safely escape a fire in their home.

The Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) is the peak representative body of all Australasian (Australia & New Zealand) fire departments. [AFAC's official position](#) of 01 June 2006 provides written evidence that ionization smoke alarms do NOT work effectively given Standards Australia's performance requirement for all smoke alarms, i.e. *"The smoke alarm shall be designed to respond reliably to the presence of smoke."* ([AS3786-1993 clause 2.1](#) - my emphasis)

After investigating the Tewanin Tragedy, the Queensland [Coroner reported](#) that the Golinski's home was fitted with 'working' ionization smoke alarms. Matt Golinski lost his family 6 months **after** the World Fire Safety Foundation's Open Letter, '[Five Years of Failing to Warn](#)' was sent to Lee Johnson who at the time was the AFAC President and QFES Commissioner. This Open Letter was sent on 01 June 2011, the fifth anniversary of AFAC's official position on smoke alarms. AFAC's position states, **"ionization smoke alarm may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires."** This quote from AFAC 's official position is the same position, verbatim, as in the International Association of Fire Fighter's official position. ([IAFF, U.S.A. - Sept 2008](#))



"ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires."

Official positions of IAFF (Sept 2008) covering over 90% of U.S. and Canadian fire fighters and AFAC (June 2006) covering all Australian & New Zealand fire brigades



Commissioner Johnson did not respond to my 01 June 2011 Open Letter. He was asked to write to the Australian manufacturer (Schneider Electric) whose PDL SD100 ionization alarms were installed in the brand new Burpengary fire station and request the level of smoke which the alarms activated at under the Australian Standard (AS3786-19934). However, I was advised at a QFES meeting in late August 2011 that Commissioner Johnson did not write to Schneider Electric because, *"We already know ionization alarms don't activate at a safe level of smoke."*

The QFES meeting was held in Brisbane one week after the Logan Fire Tragedy (Australia's worst residential house fire - 11 lives lost). Today (24 August 2016) marks the fifth anniversary of the Logan Tragedy. Mr David Isaac from Standards Australia committee FP002 was at the QFES Brisbane meeting in late August 2011 together with the Station Officer of the Burpengary Fire Station and several other senior QFES personnel. Mr Isaac was the protagonist in the 60 Minutes film, '[The Alarming Truth](#)'. Please watch the '[Extra Minutes](#)' (two minutes) interview recorded by 60 Minutes with Mr David Isaac. Mr Isaac explains why, in light of overwhelming CSIRO scientific evidence, that ionization smoke alarms are not fit for purpose. Therefore, it is morally bankrupt to continue using the slogan, 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives.'



THE ALARMING TRUTH
"The type of smoke alarm in your home can make the difference between surviving or dying in a fire."

David Isaac, Australia's Leading Fire Safety Expert
Standards Australia FP002 Committee Member
60 Minutes - Extra Minutes | 11 October 2014



David Isaac

What's the solution?

Please examine AFAC President and FRNSW's Commissioner Greg Mullin's quote, based on Australian Government (CSIRO) scientific test data, from [the Daily Mail](#) article: "Research we have just recently conducted in New South Wales found that photoelectric alarms operated far more quickly than ionization alarms for smoldering fires - sometimes tens of minutes, sometimes half an hour, sooner," Commissioner Mullins said, "In a flaming fire, ionization alarms sometimes operated more quickly than a photoelectric alarm but the difference was seconds. We very clearly advocate only photoelectric alarms. My personal view is: ionization alarms should be banned."

"...photoelectric alarms operated far more quickly than ionization alarms for smoldering fires sometimes tens of minutes, sometimes half an hour sooner ... ionization alarms should be banned."

Greg Mullins, President, Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC); Commissioner, Fire & Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) | NSW, Australia
Daily News Report | 11 Jan 2016 (see page 13)



**Commissioner
Greg Mullins AFSM**

Given Commissioner Mullins is [yet again saying, "Ionization Alarms Should Be Banned"](#), it seems prudent for all fire departments and government agencies to change its messaging to the public. We can no longer hide the truth from the public about the scientifically proven, life-threatening problems with ionization alarms. When the public asks, "Is there anything wrong with ionization smoke alarms?", a technically accurate/morally correct response is,

Yes, "Ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires."

This bolded quote above has been AFAC's [official position](#) for over a decade.

However, the traditional rhetoric throughout Australia and the U.S. has been avoidance, i.e. "We recommend photoelectric smoke alarms," or, far worse, "Working smoke alarms save lives." Most new homes built by project home builders in Australia are fitted with ionization alarms. When a home owner asks any government agency, or their trusted fire service, if the ionization smoke alarms in their homes are safe there is a [Duty of Care](#) to give an honest/accurate, straightforward answer. Last week I was told repeatedly by QFES fire officials that the Fire Service is not able to say there is anything wrong with ionization alarms because the Australian Standard (AS3786) currently allows ionization alarms to be sold. Last night QFES Assistant Commissioner, Neil Reid, confirmed that this is **not** the case and that firefighters are allowed to tell the public the truth when asked about ionization alarms.



**A/Commissioner
Neil Reid AFSM**
(see page 14)

"The ionization alarms have failed* Australian Standards since 1993."

Darren Curtis, Senior Reporter, Channel 9, Australia
Lead Story, 6pm Brisbane News | 10 May 2011

*Unable to pass Australian government (CSIRO) scientific tests for visible smoke

www.TheWFSF.org/sa



Darren Curtis

I have blind copied this message to the relevant personnel at the Queensland fire station who have little to no idea about the scientific facts relating to the [flawed Australian Smoke Alarm Standard](#). How could they possibly know the facts when they, like most fire fighters around the globe, have not been told! It is not their fault they are in the dark.

Australian government (CSIRO) test data provides empirical evidence that ionization alarms can not pass the valid, scientific test for visible smoke conducted by the CSIRO. It is unconscionable that ionization alarms are allowed to be sold to the public when carrying the U.L. and CSIRO's seals of approval.



“The scientific test data the Australian Government (CSIRO) is withholding is the key to banning and recalling ionization smoke alarms globally.”

Adrian Butler, Chairman, World Fire Safety Foundation, Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Hearing | Brisbane, Australia | 26 Oct 2015

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/csiro.html



The writing is on the wall for ionization smoke alarms. The President of AFAC and Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW has repeatedly said they should be banned. What would the public think of any organization that states, in the media or otherwise, that "*Working smoke alarms save lives?*" in light of Commissioner Mullin's statement that ionization smoke alarm should be banned?

Even the manufacturers understand the writing's on the wall. Schneider Electric, who have sold over a million PDL-SD100/Clipsal 755SMA ionization alarms into Australia, [have discontinued selling them](#).

It is imperative that the QFES (and all fire departments and government agencies globally) gets the messaging right before Queensland's new photoelectric-specific legislation comes into force on 01 January 2017.

Please take the time to follow the links in this message and examine/discover the scientific facts.

Thankfully, we have the bravest fire commissioner on the planet here in Australia. Commissioner Greg Mullins has said what no other high ranking fire official anywhere in the world has the strength of character/integrity to say: "***Ionization Smoke Alarms Should be Banned.***" Commissioner Mullins is not [playing politics](#), he is standing on his principles after examining the scientific evidence and is now telling the public the truth.

Please provide me with feedback about this message and please feel free to distribute it in part, or in its entirety. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adrian Butler
Chairman, Co -Founder, Former Fire Fighter
The World Fire Safety Foundation
North Maleny, QLD 4552 AUSTRALIA
Ph: [+61 409 782 166](tel:+61409782166)
60 Minutes - Ionization Smoke Alarm Exposé
www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org

4. Chief Jay Fleming

Boston U.S.A. Fire Chief's Email and Attachments:

Boston Fire Department's Chief Jay Fleming is widely regarded as the world's leading expert on smoke alarms. He has played a major role in the implementation of photoelectric-specific smoke alarm position statements with the [IAFF](#) & [AFAC](#) and photoelectric-specific [legislation](#) across the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand.



Chief Fleming

From: Joseph Fleming
Date: 24 August 2016 at 00:39
Subject: Smoke detector with batteries removed??
To: <James Morris>, <Adrian Butler>

Mr. Morris

FYI In most cases people remove batteries because of nuisance alarms from cooking. This is much more likely if these were ionization smoke alarms. See attachments.

I would suggest that you try to find out the type of alarm.

Jay Fleming
Boston Fire (US)

www.DailyMail.co.uk/news/article-3393171/Father-Celebrity-Chef-Matt-Golinski-Warns-Ionisation-Fire-Alarms-Putting-Lives-Risk.html

From News Stories - St Pancras Coroner's Court heard this morning that Dr Claire Sheppey, who had been drinking, was never aware of the fire. She had fallen asleep and had no working smoke alarm:
<http://metro.co.uk/2016/08/23/hero-77-doctor-died-after-cigarette-butt-started-fire-in-her-flat-6085751>

They found a smoke detector with the batteries removed on a table in the hall of her house.

Attached Documents:

1. BRK Photoelectric-Specific Legislation
2. Domestic Smoke Alarms - A Guide for Specifiers
3. Ionization and Photoelectric Smoke Alarms in Rural Alaskan Homes
4. Randomised Control Trial of Ionization and Photoelectric Smoke Alarm Functionality

Note: A PDF Document with the four attachments is at: www.Scribd.com/doc/3322141156

Ionization Smoke Alarms Are DEADLY



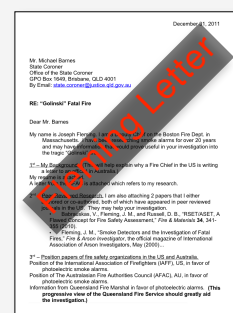
"I think the **ionization** alarm is responsible for as many as 10,000 deaths since 1990."

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

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

World Fire Safety Foundation Report | Australian Volunteer
Firefighter Magazine | Summer 2011 | pages 35 37

www.Scribd.com/doc/76543158



Letters to Queensland
Coroner about Tewantin Tragedy
(pages 9 - 13)

Chief Fleming Letter | 31 Dec 2011
www.Scribd.com/doc/76855070

WFSF Letter | 29 Dec 2011
www.Scribd.com/doc/76689874

'They are playing Russian roulette with their family's lives': Father of celebrity chef Matt Golinski - who lost his wife and children in a fire - warns most people are using older and unreliable smoke alarms

- **Celebrity chef Matt Golinski lost his wife and children in a Boxing Day fire**
- **His father said people were risking lives by having unreliable smoke alarms**
- **Keith Golinski spoke at a senate inquiry into alarms and spoke of his pain**
- **Firefighters also told hearing photoelectric alarms should be mandatory**
- **He said he and his family would never get over the tragic blaze in 2011**

By **LOUISE CHEER FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA**

PUBLISHED: 13:41 +11:00, 11 January 2016 | **UPDATED:** 18:38 +11:00, 11 January 2016

The father of celebrity chef Matt Golinski, who lost his wife and children in a Boxing Day fire, believes smoke alarms that are slow to detect fires are giving people 'a false sense of safety'.

Keith Golinski - grandfather to Sage, Willow and Starlia and father-in-law to Rachael, who all died in the 2011 fire - told a senate inquiry into the use of fire alarms he and his family would never get over the tragedy.

The family had older model ionization alarms installed in their Sunshine Coast home at the time of the tragedy - a type of device that is up to half an hour slower to detect fires than newer model photoelectric alarms but that is still used widely across Australian homes.



The father of celebrity chef Matt Golinski (pictured), who lost his wife and children in a Boxing Day fire, believes ionization alarms are giving people a false sense of security'

During his recent appearance at the inquiry, Mr Golinski also revealed his chef son Matt spent more than half an hour waiting for an ambulance to arrive as 'his family perished inside'.

'All he [Matt] could keep saying was, "I have lost my whole family",' Mr Golinski said. 'Matt made it out of the back door with skin draped around his body.'

Mr Golinski said his son spent eight weeks in a coma in intensive care and a further eight weeks in hospital.



'When he woke from the coma, I had to tell him that they [his family] had all perished. I did not know whether he knew or not,' Mr Golinski said.

The chef's father said he had no doubt in his mind that Matt thought he and his family were safe with two ionization alarms installed at his home in Tewantin, a suburb of the Sunshine Coast.

'I am sure Matt and his family would have gone to bed on that Christmas night fully believing that they would have been woken by the alarms in the event of a fire as millions of people do every night,' he said.



Matt's wife Rachel, died in the boxing Day fire in 2011. The celebrity chef survived but had severe burns to his body.



Sage, Willow, twins aged 12, and Starlia, 10, died along with their mother in the fire on Queensland's Sunshine Coast

Mr Golinski believed people were risking not only their lives but their family's as well by using ionization alarms.

'I look around at people in the room, at people in the street, at people in the town, at people everywhere and think, "Do they know that they are playing Russian roulette, not only with their own lives but with their family's lives?"' he said.

Mr Golinski's claims were backed by firefighters who have urged fire safety standards to be changed to make photoelectric alarms mandatory.

'People are still dying for a variety of reasons: because of the type of smoke alarm, because of the number, because of flat batteries and because they disable them after nuisance alarms,' Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council's Greg Mullins said.

'The main messages are that only photoelectric smoke alarms should be allowed. More are needed than the minimum mandated in current regulations.

'They need to be connected to mains power and interconnected so that they give maximum warning to occupants.

Commissioner Mullins said people were also dying even when there were smoke alarms that worked.

'There is a number of reasons for that. The big issue for us with modern furnishings in homes is the phenomenon of flashover.

'In the 1970s, it took 10 to 20 minutes in a normal home. Now it takes two to three minutes. Once flashover occurs, nobody escapes.'



To combat this Commissioner Mullins recommended home residential sprinklers to be installed as well.

'Research we have just recently conducted in New South Wales found that photoelectric alarms operated far more quickly than ionization alarms for smoldering fires - sometimes tens of minutes, sometimes half an hour, sooner,' Commissioner Mullins said.

'In a flaming fire, ionization alarms sometimes operated more quickly than a photoelectric alarm but the difference was seconds. We very clearly advocate only photoelectric alarms. My personal view is: ionization alarms should be banned.'

Read more: [The Courier-Mail](#)

Report extracted 25 August 2016 from the Daily Mail's U.K. website:

www.DailyMail.co.uk/News/Article-3393171/Father-Celebrity-Chef-Matt-Golinski-Warns-Ionisation-Fire-Alarms-Putting-Lives-Risk.html#ixzz4IJYEdtID

6. October 2015 | Logan House Fire Support Network
Debunking ‘Working Smoke Alarms’ Myth



Australian Senate
Smoke Alarm Inquiry



Louie Naumovski Debunking ‘Working Smoke Alarm’ Myth

Mr Louie Naumovski's Testimony at the Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry Hearing explained how people are dying in homes fitted with ‘working’ ionization smoke alarms.
Australian Senate Smoke Alarm Inquiry | Brisbane Hearing | 26 October 2015

Watch the Video | Read the Hansard Transcript:

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/csiro.html#r12

7. January 2017 | Queensland Government
**World’s Strictest Photoelectric-Only Smoke Alarm
Legislation Becomes Law in Queensland, Australia**



Louie Naumovski (LHFSN), Neil Reid (QFES), Adrian Butler (WFSF)

Louie Naumovski, Founder, Logan House Fire Support Network (left) with Neil Reid, Asst Commissioner, QLD Fire & Emergency Service (center) and Adrian Butler, Chairman, World Fire Safety Foundation after QLD’s historic photoelectric-only legislation was voted unanimously into law to be enacted 01 Jan 2017

Parliament House | Brisbane, Queensland, Australia | 31 August 2016

The Story Behind Queensland’s Legislation

www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/qpl7.html#r12