Photos

18

1. CASE NUMBER H5B0059	2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID	3. OFFICE CODE	EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
951109CBB1168	8930	800	
4. INCIDENT DATE YR MO DAY	5. DATE IDI INITIATED YR MO DAY		
951031	951128		

6. SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT OR COMPLAINT

No injuries occurred when a fire started in a light switch and the circuit breaker failed to trip. The smoke detectors also failed to activate.

MFR/PRVLBR NOTIFIED EK 10-21-96

Overrule No Comments made

Comments attached

Excisions/Revisions

✓ Firm has not requested further notice

7. LOCATION	8. CITY	9. STATE
Home 10	Rockville Center	NY

10A. FIRST PRODUCT	11A. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS
Circuit Breaker 4063	General Electric Plainville, CT Box TM2020, CAT NO. TQD222.00
10B. SECOND PRODUCT	**11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS**
smoke detectors 0702	First Alert 780 McClure Rd. Aurora, IL 60504 SA67D

12. AGE OF VICTIM	13. SEX	14. DISPOSITION	15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS
999	9	No injury 99	99

16. BODY PART	17. RESPONDENT(S)	18. INVESTIGATION TYPE	19. TIME SPENT
99	complainant 1	on-site 1	10.0

20. ATTACHMENTS	21. CASE SOURCE	22. REVIEWED BY	YR MO DAY
photographs 1	hotline 7	8969	95 12 12

23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (NON-NEISS CASES ONLY)

CPSC MAY DISCLOSE MY NAME _ CPSC MAY NOT DISCLOSE MY NAME x

24. NARRATIVE (See Instructions on Page 2)

25. REGIONAL DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE

[signature] 12-15-95

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

CPSC FOR NO. 182 (Revised 10/93)(Adapted for WP for Windows & HP Laserjet III Printer 10/93)

not maintained. The complainant learned from his electrician that there was nothing abnormal about the rust inside the circuit breaker box. At this point, there is no written report from the consumer's electrician, nor does he have a copy of the manufacturer's report.

The complainant sent a smoke detector back to each of the two manufacturers of the detectors. He stated that after the fire, when he tested the detectors using the test buttons, they worked properly which I confirmed when I examined the units. Both manufacturers claimed that there was no problem with their detectors upon examining them. At this time, the complainant would not allow me to collect the smoke detectors as samples as he is still dealing with the manufacturers and his insurance company.

I have requested copies of various correspondence between the complainant, his insurance company, the manufacturers, as well as a copy of the fire report but these documents have not yet been received.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Manufacturer of Circuit Breaker Box:
General Electric
Plainville, CT
Box TM2020
NP245769-12

Manufacturer of Smoke Detectors:
First Alert
780 McClure Rd.
Aurora, IL 60504-2495
Model #SA67D

American Sensors

Model #SA308 OT31

Dealer of Smoke Detectors:
Home Depot
Freeport, NY

PRE-INCIDENT

This incident involves two different products, a smoke detector and a circuit breaker. The following background information about the products follows.

The complainant purchased the house that the fire occurred in and moved in to it in January, 1995. The house is approximately 45 to 50 years old. The circuit breaker that was removed after the fire was approximately 25 years old but the age of the lightswitch where the fire originated from is unknown.

Prior to purchasing the house, the complainant had an engineer's evaluation completed and at that time, no electrical problems were found. There were no problems with the electrical system in the house prior to the fire.

The complainant purchased three brand new smoke detectors and placed them in the basement, by the stairs on the first floor, and in the bedroom area on the second floor. The batteries in all of the detectors were new. Two weeks prior to the fire, the complainant had tested each detector using the test button, and found all of them to be in working order.

INCIDENT

On December 31, 1995, the complainant's wife left the house at approximately 11:00 AM with their one year old daughter. When she returned at 11:45 AM, she opened the front door and found that the whole house was filled with smoke. She immediately closed the door and called the fire department.

POST-INCIDENT

There were no deaths or injuries associated with the fire. According to the complainant, the smoke detectors all failed to function. The fire was traced to a light switch in the kitchen. Further investigation revealed that while the source of the fire was the light switch, it was caused by the circuit breaker which failed to trip. The short in the switch on the kitchen wall made the wires very hot causing a fire inside the walls and ceiling of the house. Two of the circuit breakers melted in the box. As soon as the fire department shut the circuit breaker, the fire went out because there was no source of heat fueling the fire at that point.

The manufacturer of the circuit breaker sent a representative to investigate the fire and the representative told the complainant that the circuit breakers were rusted and

PRODUCT STANDARDS

The circuit breaker is UL listed, P-0142 0671.
The smoke detectors are UL listed.

ATTACHMENTS

1 - Photographs

B. Kohen
11/13/95

Gratt B. Cohen
Assignment to Geo Kohen
[illegible] ASAP (CBB)
NYCO
11/9/95

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REQUEST FORM

Document Number H5B0059A

Date of Incident 10/31/95 Category I.D. SEA TCC 1994

Follow-Up Requested Hazard Analysis Section 15

Type Follow-Up Requested Telephone Call On-Site

Headquarters Contact: Catherine A. Cumberland

Assignment Message Conduct investigation of incident Obtain any available smoke detectors from consumer. Obtain all reports from local officials. Obtain any insurance or other independent reports. Obtain ~~Obtain~~ as much info as possible about the circuit braker. Had there been any problems prior to the incident w/ the circuit braker? Take photos of circuit braker if still available. Who did consumer send smoke detector to?

Person(s) to Contact Family
local officials

Guideline

951109CBB1168

CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT Lawrence J. Buchman (lawyer)	2. PHONE NO. (HOME) (WORK) 516-764-6344 212-307-5800
3. STREET ADDRESS 392 Westminster Rd.	4. CITY Rockville Centre STATE ZIP CODE NY 11570

5. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES
Wife and daughter entered house, found it smoke-filled, left house and called local fire department. Wife and daughter received mild smoke inhalation; no Rx. Firemen extinguished fire. Firemen said they thought an electrical light switch in kitchen for outside back door light fixture (consumer has no information on switch & fixture) failed and shorted.
-cont-

6. DATE OF INCIDENTS 10/31/95	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS OBTAIN AGE/SEX 27 Y/F AND DESCRIBE INJURY: mild smoke inhalation	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME Tavora RELATIONSHIP wife
9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT 2 battery-operated smoke detectors		10. BRAND NAME First Alert
11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE First Alert 3901 Liberty St. Rd. Aurora, IL 60504 unknown unknown unknown unknown		12. MODEL, SERIAL NUMBERS SA67D/UL#S1208-issue#41,078/#04-109-63 13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE Home Depot Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY 00000 unknown
14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? YES x NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? after DESCRIBE: damaged: they didn't sound & slightly soot-covered		15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW x USED DATE PURCHASED 2/95 AGE 8.5 mos. 16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: "Caution: Radioactive P40-83-15...."
17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? YES NO IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? YES NO OTHER?	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES x NO IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION 1 only, 1 sent to mfr.	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES x NO

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 11/07/95	21. RECEIVED BY (NAME & OFFICE) ldm/HL	22. DOCUMENT NO. H95B0059A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION 951109CBB1168		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 0702,0702,4063
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE	

CPSC FORM 175 (9/89)

unknown

unknown

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? YES x NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? after DESCRIBE: damaged: they didn't sound & slightly soot-covered

15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW x USED
DATE PURCHASED 2/95 AGE 8.5 mos.

16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS?
IF SO, NOTE: warnings unknown

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? YES x NO
IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? YES NO OTHER?

18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES x NO
IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION

Distributor phone #: unknown

CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT - H95B0059A
PRODUCT #3

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT
electric circuit breaker w/box

10. BRAND NAME
General Electric

11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE
General Electric Distributor & Control-Components & Operations, 41 Woodford-Ave., Plainville, CT 06062
800-626-2004
unknown
unknown
unknown

12. MODEL, SERIAL NUMBERS
unknown, unit is UL listed # unknown

13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE
unknown
unknown
unknown
unknown

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? YES x NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? after DESCRIBE: damaged: hard plastic & metal circuit breaker is melted & burned & metal box is partially burned

15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW USED x
DATE PURCHASED 1/95 AGE +10 mos.

16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS?
IF SO, NOTE: unknown

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? YES x NO
IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? YES NO OTHER?

18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES x NO
IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION

Distributor phone #: unknown

Task No.: 951109CBB1168

STATUS OF MISSING DOCUMENT

The purpose of this record is to notify the reader that the following document(s), which is/are missing from this report, will not be collected.

1. Fire report
2. Correspondence with insur. co.
3. corresp. with manuf.

The investigator indicates in the report that he/she requested a copy of the above listed document(s), but the document(s) was/were not yet available when the investigation report was completed. The investigator intended to forward the document(s) for attachment to this report when the requested material was obtained.

The investigator has made numerous attempts, since the original request, to collect a copy of the requested document(s) but has not been successful. Because of the problems associated with the collection of this material and our limited investigation resources, no additional efforts will be made to collect the missing document(s).

We apologize for any inconvenience that the missing data may cause you.

Date: 12/13/95 Investigator No.: 8930

Regional Office: FOER Supervisor No.:

951109CBB1168
Att. #1

Fig. 1- Switch where fire started (the burnt switch had already been replaced with what you see in this photo)

Fig. 2- Close-up of burnt wall. Entire wall and wiring is going to be replaced.

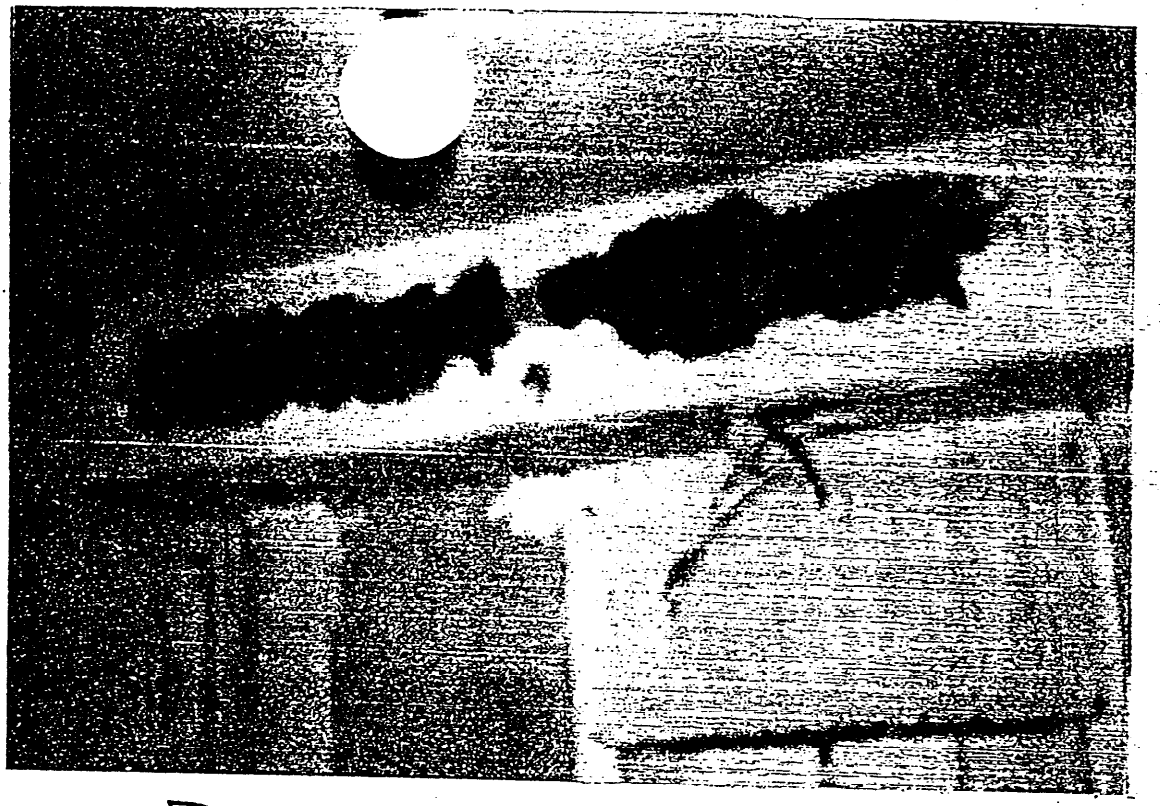


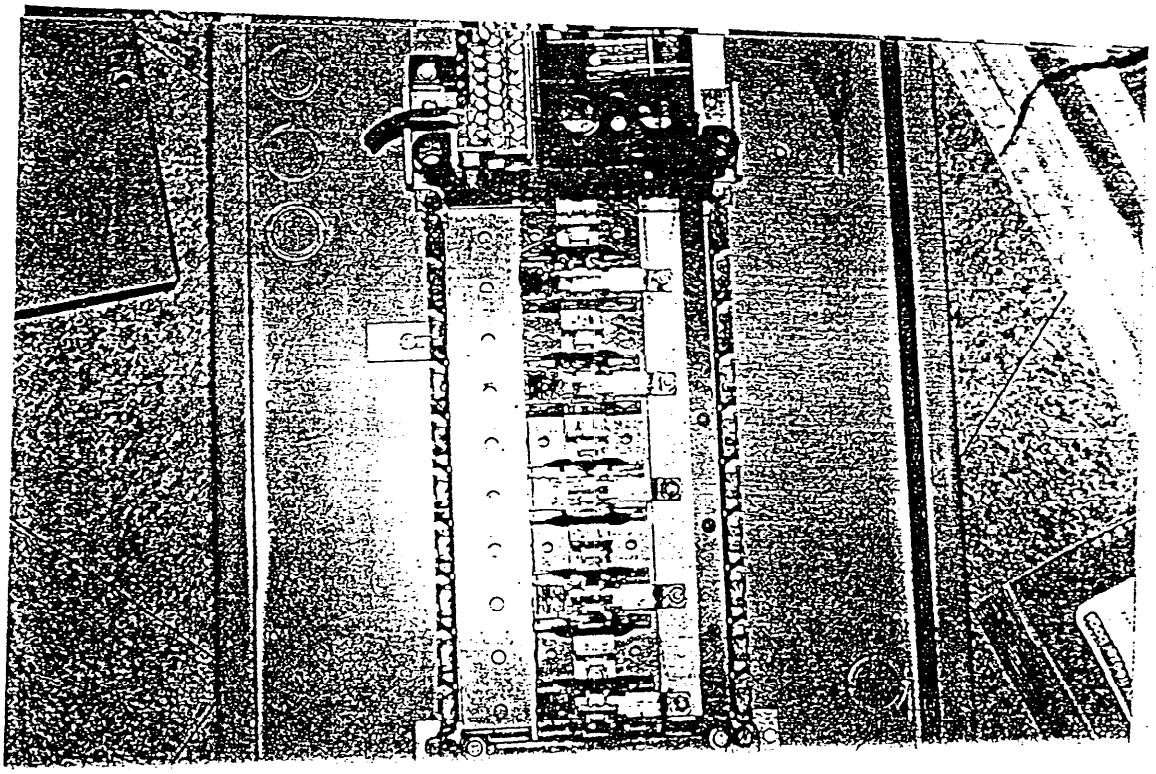
Fig. 3 - Area near ceiling that was also affected by fire

Fig. 4 - The burnt switch - no product ID is available

951109CB B1168

Fig. 5 - The circuit breaker box involved in the fire. It was replaced with a new one

Fig. 6 - Close-up of interior of box



951109CJB1108

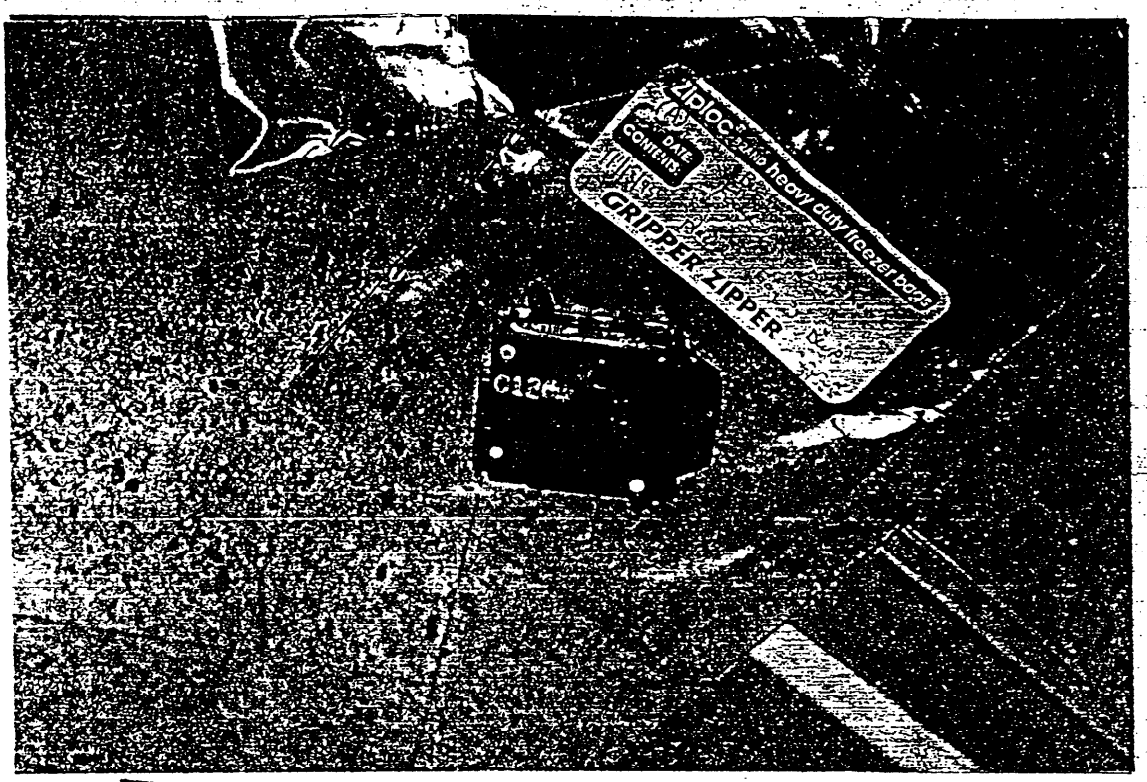


Fig. 9 & 10 - The breakers that were removed from box (front & back). Notice it melted from the heat

951109CBB 1168

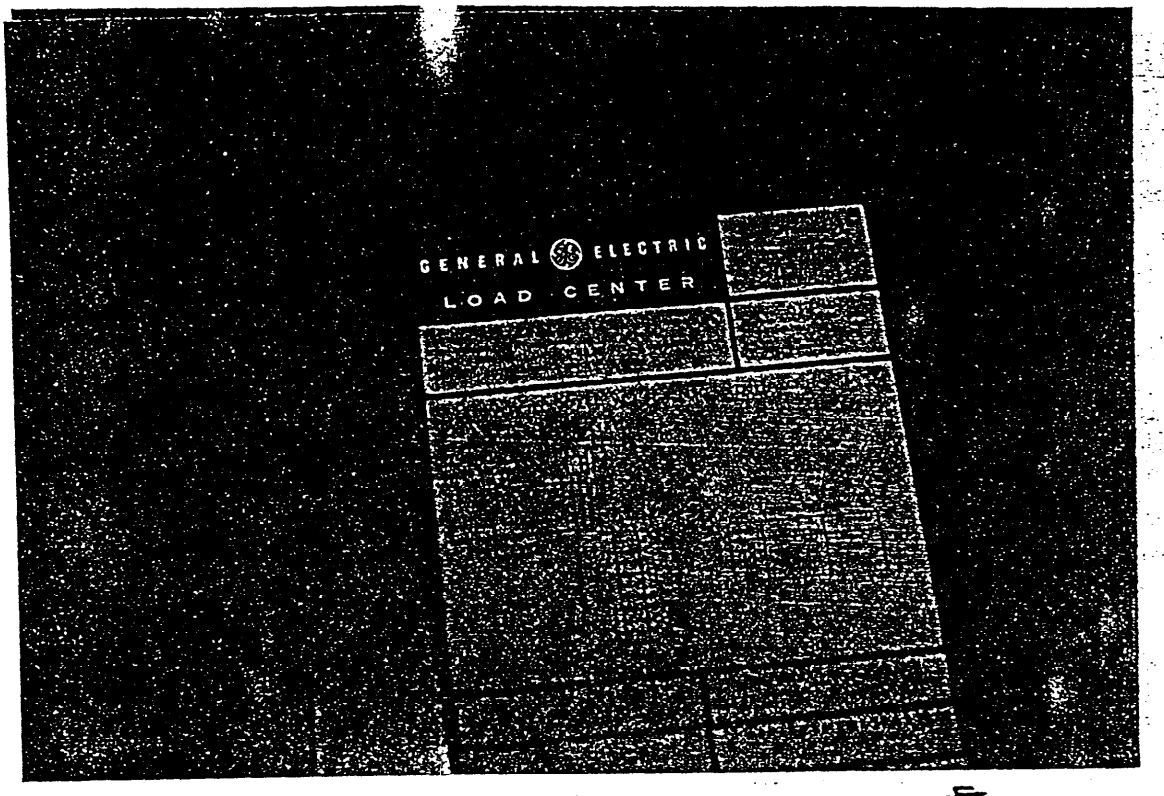
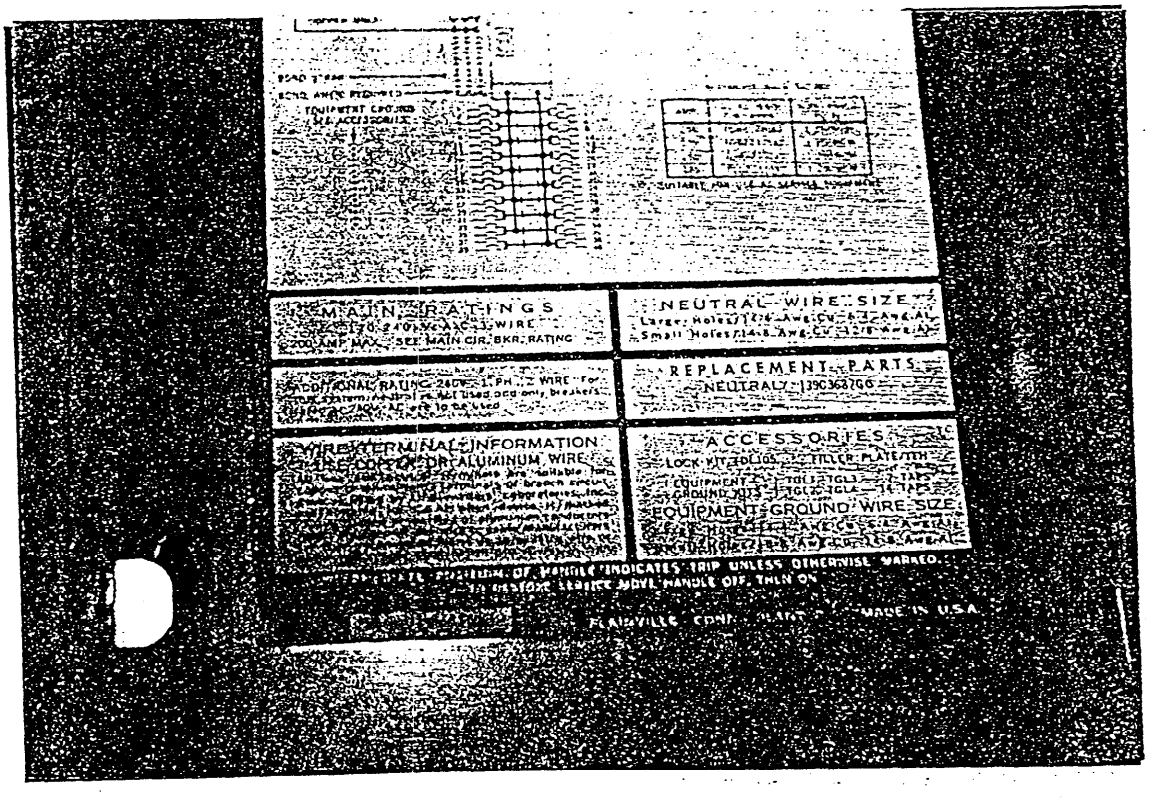


Fig. 11 & 12 - Label on inside of door of box



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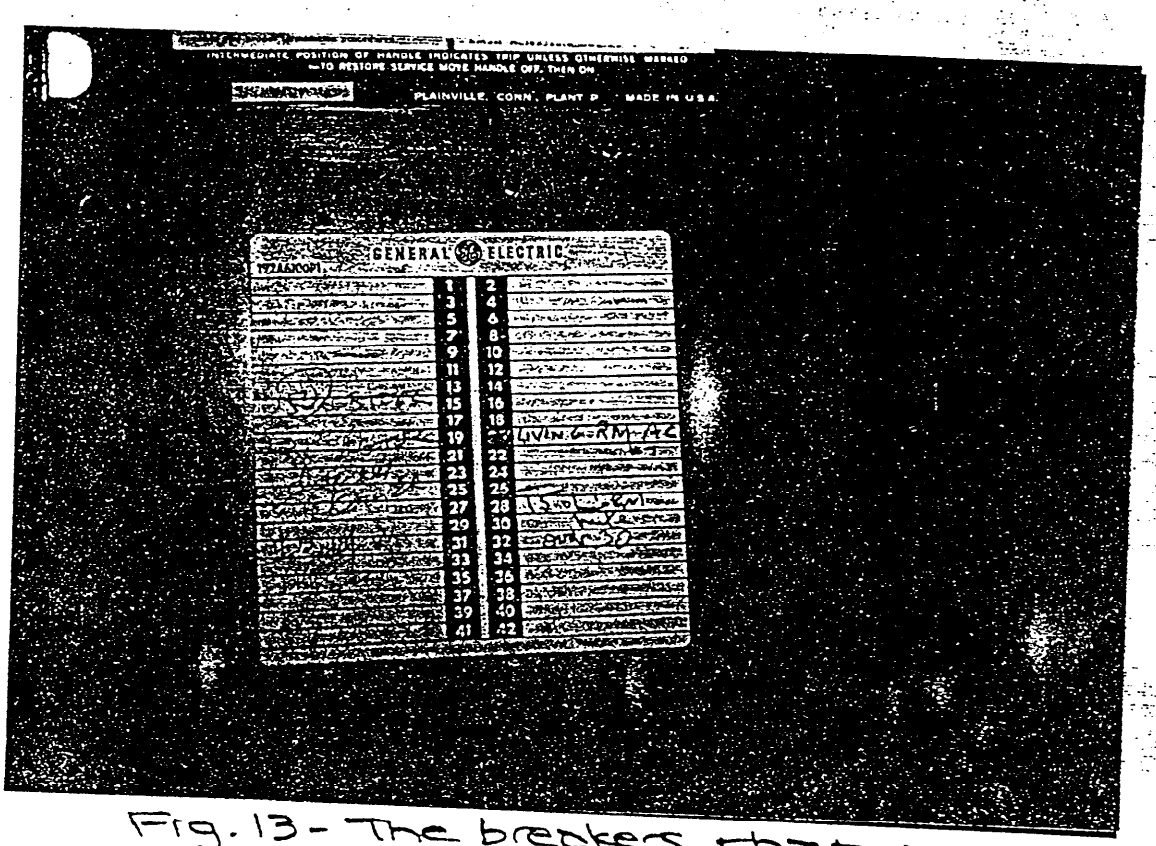

Fig. 13 - The breakers that are marked are incorrect

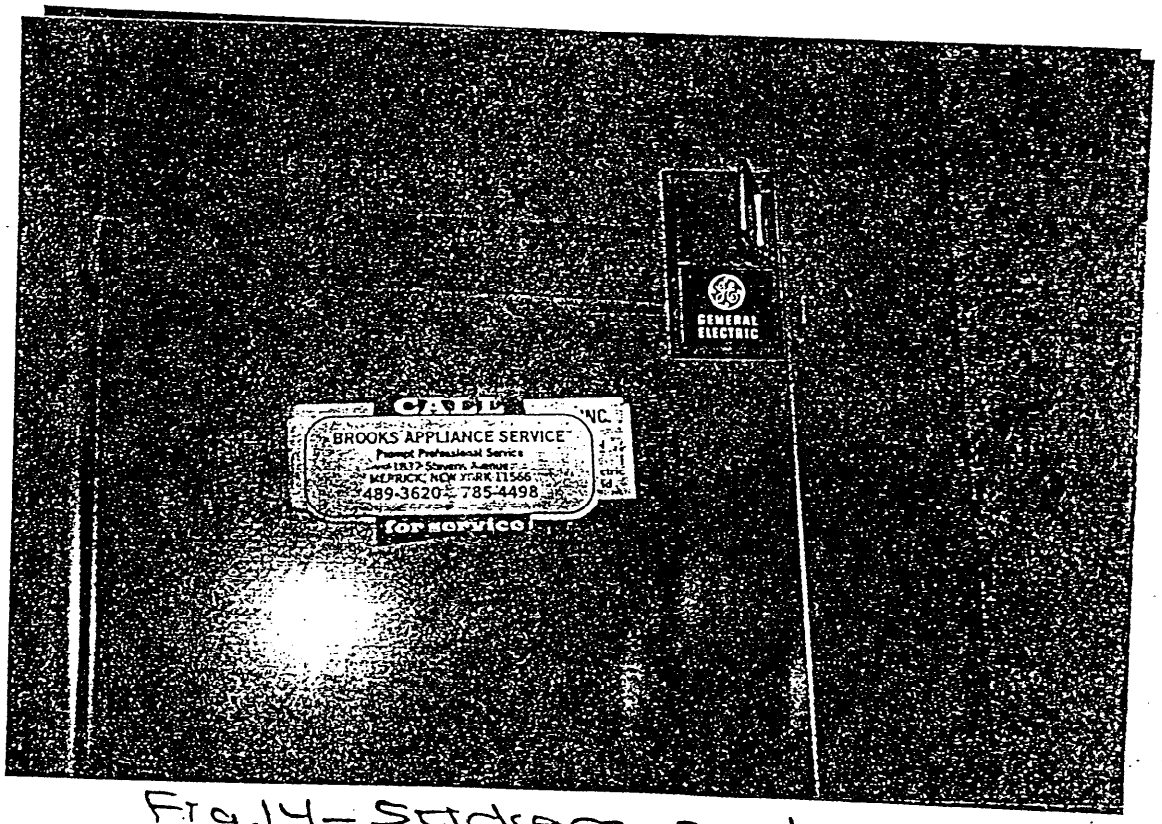

Fig. 14 - Stickers on door of box

951109CBB1168

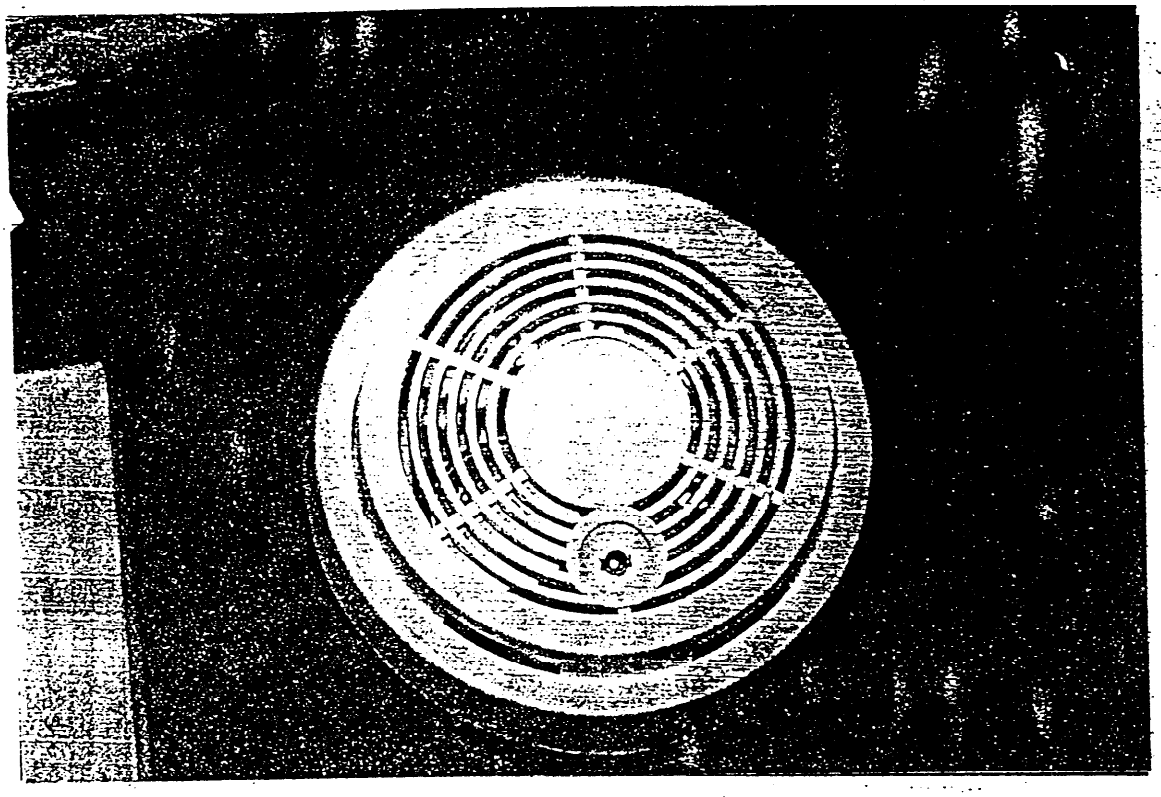

Fig-15 = Top of First Alert smoke detector

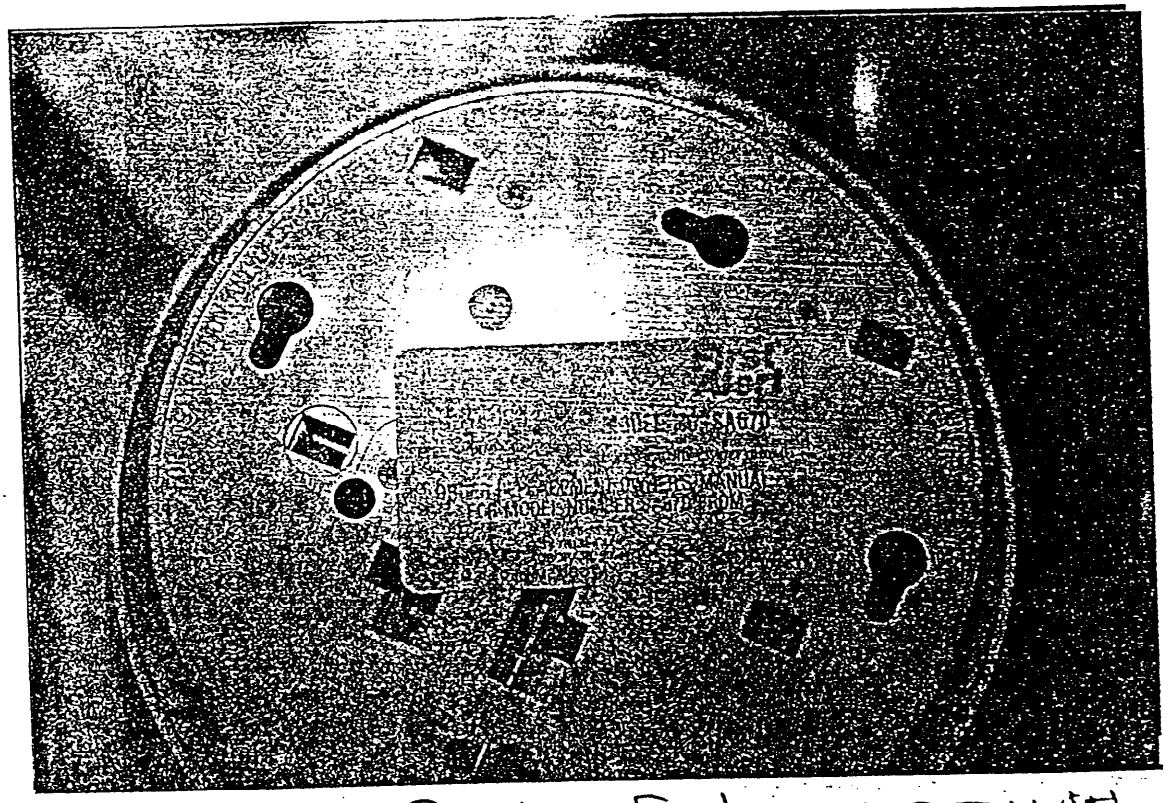

Fig. 16- Back of detector with label

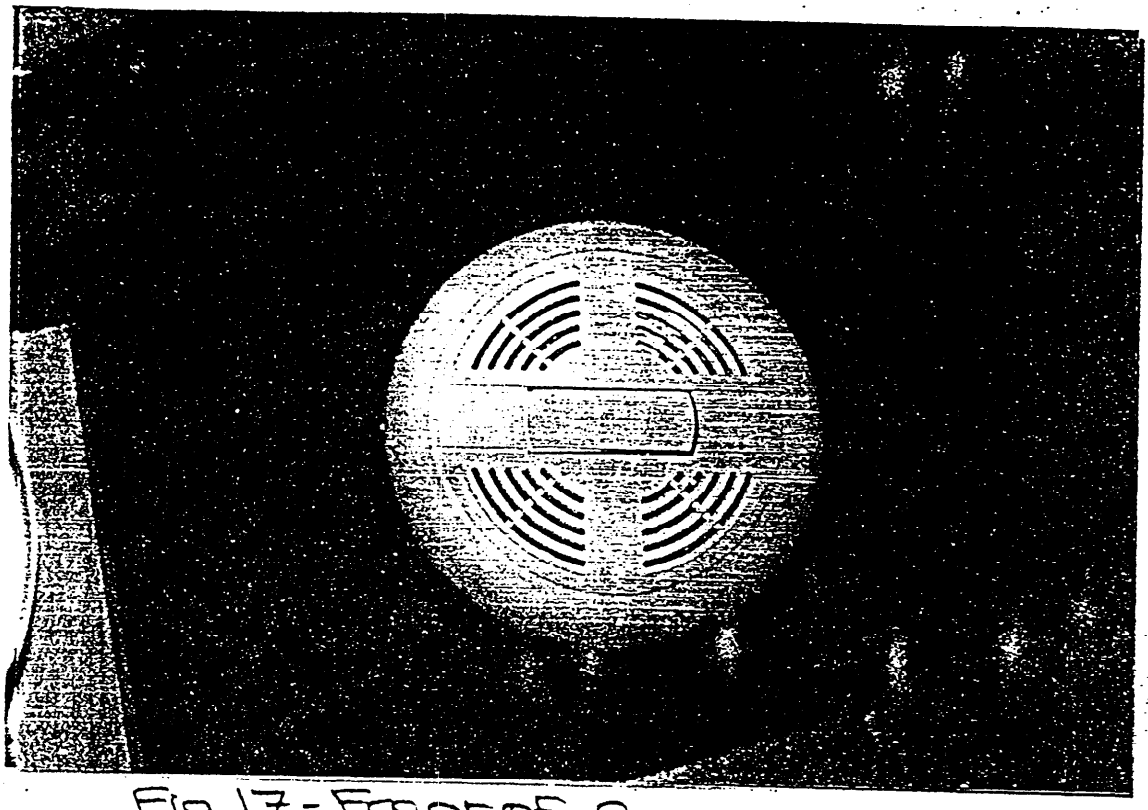

Fig. 17 - Front of American Sensors smoke detector

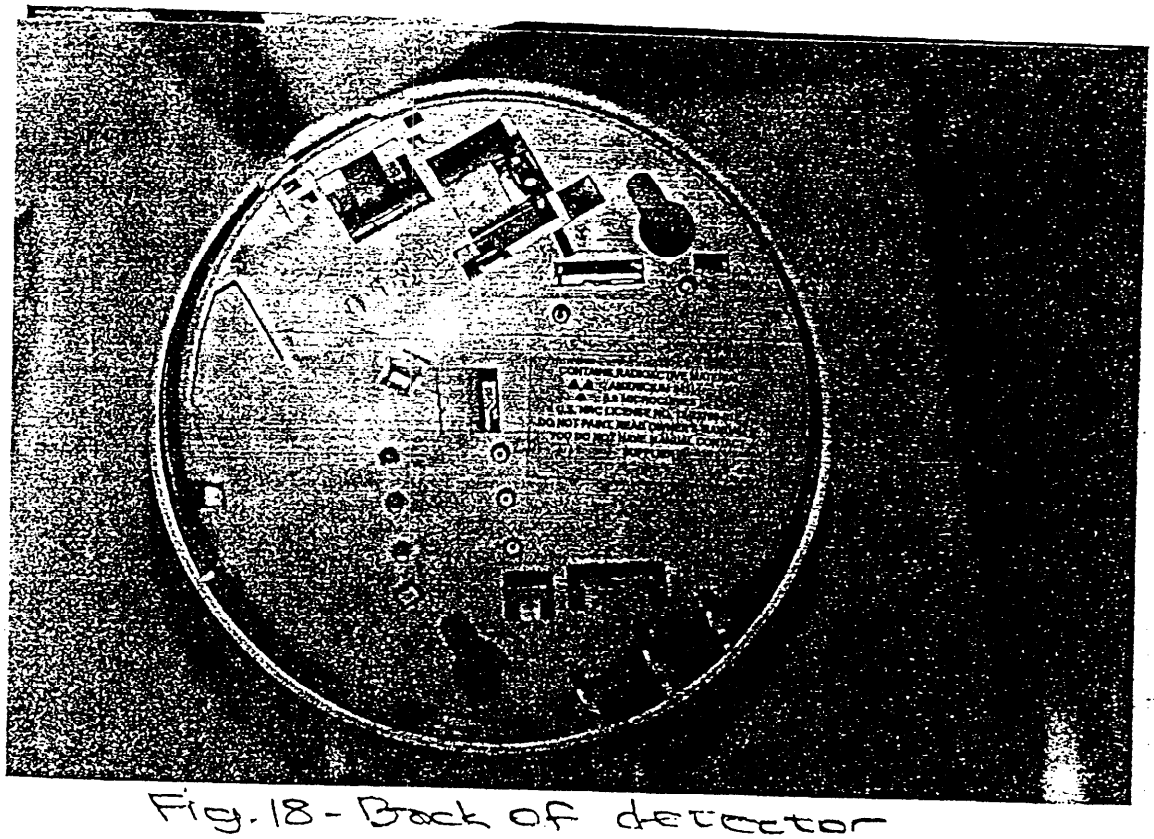

Fig. 18 - Back of detector