Photos

1. CASE NO. G658127 '960521CCN1210	2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID 8029	3. OFFICE CODE 830	EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
4. DATE OF ACCIDENT 960512	5. DATE INVESTIGATION INITIATED YR MO DAY 960522		

6. SYNOPSIS OF ACCIDENT OR COMPLAINT A complainant stated heavy smoke and soot filled rooms in his home when he built a fire in his fireplace and forgot to open the damper. Neither of his 2 battery powered smoke alarms sounded when this occurred. No injuries were involved and no fire occurred.

7. LOCATION(Home, school, etc.)	8. CITY	9. STATE
home (den) 10	Roswell	Georgia GA

10A. FIRST PRODUCT	11a. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL
battery operated smoke detector 0702	Pittway Corporation 780 McClure Road Aurora, IL 60504-2495 model no. SA670
10B. SECOND PRODUCT none	11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL none

12. AGE OF VICTIM	13. SEX(Numerical code)	14. DISPOSITION	15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS
999	Male -1 Female -2 Unknown-3 9	no injury 9	no injury 70

16. BODY PART	17. RESPONDENT(S)	18. TYPE INVESTIGATION	19. TIME SPENT
no injury 99	complainant 1	On Site 1 Telephone 2 Other 3 1	090

20. ATTACHMENTS	21. CASE SOURCE	22. REVIEWED BY	YR MO DAY
multiple 9	complaint 07	8007	960620

23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (Non Neiss Cases Only)

CPSC MAY DISCLOSE MY NAME X CPSC MAY NOT DISCLOSE MY NAME

24. NARRATIVE(See Instructions on Other Side)

25. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE

MFR/PRVLBR NOTIFIED 10-21-96

Overrule No Comments made

Comments attached

Excisions/Revisions

Firm has not requested further notice

(Use Other Side and Additional Sheets If Necessary)

An on-site was conducted at a home in Roswell, Georgia, where a complainant and his wife stated that 2 smoke detectors in their home failed to alarm when their home was filled with heavy smoke and soot. The complainant stated he built a fire in his fireplace, forgot to open the fireplace damper and this caused heavy smoke and soot to fill the den, a closed in porch and the kitchen. No injuries were involved but the complainant's home did receive smoke damage. The complainant is currently having some rooms in the house repainted as a result of the smoke damage.

Information in this report was provided by the complainant and his wife who also provided the 2 smoke detectors which did not sound off to be used by CPSC for testing purposes. The detectors were collected under sample 96-830-4058 (copy of SCR attached as Exhibit 2).

PRE-ACCIDENT:

The complainant and his wife indicated their home is 22 years old and their fireplace is supplied with a natural gas line. The complainant stated he had already cleaned out his fireplace and was not planning to use it anymore this season. However, he stated on the day of this incident (5/12/96) it was a chilly day with the temperature being approximately 45 degrees so he decided to build a fire in the fireplace which has a gas starter. The complainant stated that after he build the fire, he and his wife were sitting in the den having coffee. He stated a few moments had elapsed (approximately 15 minutes or so) from the time he built the fire until the room started filling up with smoke. He stated that he had forgotten that he had closed the damper since he had not planned to use it anymore and he did not open it when he built the fire. The fireplace is located in the den portion of the complainant's home. For a view of the fireplace see the attached Exhibit 4 photographs 1 and 2.

The complainant stated he had 2 smoke detectors (one located in the hallway and one located in the kitchen of his home). During the on-site investigation a ruler was used to measure the distance from the fireplace to the smoke detector located in the hallway and the distance measured approximately 15 feet. This smoke detector was still attached to the ceiling at the time of my on-site investigation. There is a doorway leading from the room where the fireplace was located into the hallway where the smoke detector was located (see attached Exhibit 4 photographs 1, 2 and 7). The complainant indicated that at the time of this incident, this doorway was closed and when the smoke filled the den where the fireplace is located they immediately opened the door but the smoke detector in the hallway did not go off.

During the on-site investigation the distance from the fireplace in the den to the area in the kitchen where the other smoke detector was originally attached to the ceiling portion was measured and the distance measured approximately 39 feet (see attached Exhibit 4 photographs 4, 5, 9 and 10). The complainant had removed this smoke detector from the ceiling on the day of this on-site investigation. For a view of where the smoke detector was located in the kitchen see the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 10. For a view of the doorway leading into the hallway from the den where the other smoke detector was located see the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 5. In addition Exhibit 4 photograph 8 is a view showing the smoke detector located in the hallway.

According to the complainant, there were no unusual circumstances occurring and no one was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

ACCIDENT:

Sometime during the early morning hours of 5/12/96, smoke and soot damaged the kitchen, den and a closed-in porch area of the complainant's home in Roswell, Georgia, when the complainant built a fire in his fireplace and forgot to open the damper. There was soot and smoke damage to the kitchen, den and a close-in porch area of the home in Roswell, Georgia. For a view of the smoke damage to the ceiling portion of the den, view of the closed-in porch area leading off from the den and the kitchen area, see the attached Exhibit 4 photographs 3 and 9.

According to the complainant, the smoke detector located in the hallway and also the smoke detector located in the kitchen failed to alarm when the incident occurred. No injuries were involved and no fire originated. The complainant stated that he feels that the detectors only sound from heat rather than from smoke and this gives the consumer a false sense of security. He indicated they had just put a fresh 9 volt Eveready alkaline battery into each of the smoke detectors when this occurred.

During this on-site investigation, the complainant, his wife and I used a candle to hold underneath the smoke detectors as shown in attached Exhibit 4 photographs 26 and 27 to see if the detector would alarm and it did. The complainant and his wife each indicated they feel the detectors do not sound off when there is smoke but only when there is an actual fire or flame. They indicated that although the doorway was closed leading from the den into the hallway where one of the smoke detectors was located when the room became filled with smoke, they opened the doorway and the smoke detector in the hall still did not alarm when the smoke went into the hallway.

According to the complainant's wife, the smoke detector in the kitchen is sensitive to heat. She stated this detector goes off every time she bakes. They each indicated they normally replace the batteries in the smoke detectors approximately every 6 months to a year and they had just replaced the batteries in these 2 detectors in April 96 just prior to the time the incident occurred.

POST ACCIDENT:

The complainant stated when the room became filled with smoke he ran and got a work glove, opened the glass folding doors on the fireplace and opened the damper. He stated they also opened all the doors and windows in the kitchen, den and the closed-in porch but there was smoke damage to these areas. No fire or police personnel were called to the scene. On the day of this on-site investigation, a painter was on-site painting the complainant's home because of the damages.

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

There are 2 smoke detectors involved in this incident. Both of these detectors are made of a hard plastic type material. The top or front cover portion of each is labeled in part: "First Alert PUSH AND HOLD TO TEST WEEKLY DETECTOR WILL NOT OPERATE IF BATTERY IS DEAD, DISCONNECTED OR IMPROPERLY INSTALLED IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A MANUAL, SEE REVERSE SIDE OF THE DETECTOR'S BASE FOR MODEL NUMBER AND MANUAL INFORMATION..." These 2 detectors can be seen in the attached Exhibit 4 photographs 12-20. The detector identified in the attached Exhibit 2 SCR as Sub 1 is the detector that was located in the hallway of the complainant's home. This detector has a larger top cover than the smoke detector identified in the attached Exhibit 2 SCR 96-830-4058 as Sub 2.

The diameter of the top portion of each of these was measured and the diameter of the one located in the hallway which is identified as Sub 1 measures approximately 6-1/4" in diameter. The detector identified as Sub 2 was located in the kitchen and the top cover portion measures approximately 5-1/4" in diameter. This measurement can be seen in the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 17 with a ruler being used to show the measurement. The base portion of each of these detectors measures the same which is approximately 5" as shown in the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 18.

There is a stick on-label on each of these detectors as shown in the attached Exhibit 4 photographs 13 and 19 and the labeling is basically the same. The labels state in part "S-1208 UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES. SINGLE STATION SMOKE DETECTOR ALSO

SUITABLE FOR USE IN RECREATIONAL VEHICLES MODEL NO. SA670 First Alert...ORDER REPLACEMENT OWNER'S MANUAL FOR MODEL NO. SA670 FROM ..." It should be noted that the detector which was located in the hallway which has a larger cover and is identified as Sub 1 in the attached Exhibit 2 SCR 96-830-4058 is labeled "PITTWAY CORPORATION 780 McCLURE RD AURORA, IL 60504-2495 U.S.A..." For a view of this label see the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 19. The stick on label which is attached to the smoke detector which was located in the kitchen and identified as Sub 2 in the attached Exhibit 2 sample collection report 96-830-4058 states in part "FIRST ALERT 780 McCLURE RD, AURORA, IL 60504-2495 U.S.A. ASSEMBLED IN MEXICO NO4-109-63". The base portion of this detector is also labeled on the hard plastic portion in part "DO NOT DISASSEMBLE, RETURN FOR REPAIR. CONTAINS RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS AMERICIUM 241...MICROCURIE..." This same labeling information also appears on the smoke detector which was located in the hallway identified as Sub 1 in the attached Exhibit 2 SCR 96-830-4058.

There is also warning information on the inside base portion of each of the 2 smoke detectors warning consumers to use the specified batteries only. The information reference batteries on each of the smoke detectors indicates in part "...9 VOLT BATTERY EVEREADY..." For a view of the batteries contained in each of the 2 smoke detectors and the inside portion of the detector where the battery is housed see the attached Exhibit 4 photographs 20-23.

The complainant had a 9 volt "EVEREADY Energizer ALKALINE BATTERY" in each of the 2 smoke detector as shown in the attached Exhibit 4 photograph 20. The complainant and his wife indicated to the best of their memory the smoke detectors were purchased approximately 2 years prior to the time of this incident from Home Depot, Atlanta, Georgia. According to the complainant and his wife, the batteries were purchased approximately April 96 from Wal-mart, Johnson Ferry-Shallowford Road, Roswell, Georgia. The complainant indicated he checks these batteries at least once a week and he had checked both batteries right before the incident happened and each of the batteries was working properly.

The battery in each of these smoke detectors is labeled in part "EVEREADY Energizer ALKALINE BATTERY WARNING DO NOT DISPOSE OF IN FIRE, RECHARGE PUT IN BACKWARDS, MIX WITH USED OR OTHER BATTERY TYPES-MAY EXPLODE OR LEAK AND CAUSE PERSONAL INJURY... "EverReady Battery Co, Inc., P.O. Box 6056, Cleveland, OH 44101 MADE IN U.S.A. 9V SIZE No. 522 9 VOLTS."

During this on-site investigation the complainant provided the 2 smoke detectors as a sample to be tested by CPSC. The detectors were collected under sample 96-830-4058 to be sent to CCA, Attention Pam Major through the sample custodian (copy of SCR attached as Exhibit 2).

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit 1 - Incident Report.

2 - Copy of SCR 96-830-4058.

3 - AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF NAME form signed by complainant.

4 - Photographs 1-27.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT Charles Englander	2. TELEPHONE NO. (Home) (Work) 770/641-8497(home)
3. STREET ADDRESS 4605 Mountain Creek Dr.	4. CITY STATE ZIP Roswell Georgia 30075

5. DESCRIBE ACCIDENT SITUATION OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES. (Use second page if necessary.)Complainant had his home fill up with heavy smoke and soot when he forgot to open fireplace chimney flue. Smoke was rolling along ceiling and completely covered two First Alert smoke detectors. Neither detector sounded even though they both had fresh 9 V batteries. Compl. tested the detectors by placing lighted candle near and they both sounded. He feels these detectors only sound from heat rather than smoke and give consumers a false sense of security. Labeling on detector states "Single Station Smoke Detector".

6. DATE OF INCIDENT(S) 5/12/96____	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE__75_ SEX__male_ AND DESCRIBE INJURY__Smoke inhalation____	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME___N/A_____ RELATIONSHIP_____

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT Smoke alarm	10. BRAND NAME First Alert
11.MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE First Alert 780 McClure Rd. Aurora, IL 60504-2495	12. MODEL, SERIAL NO.'S SA67D 13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE Home Depot Atlanta, GA
14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED YES___ NO_x_ IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? _____ Describe_____	15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW_x__ USED____ AGE____ DATE PURCHASED-est. 2 yrs. ago 16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: _Unknown_____

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER?
YES_____ NO_x___
IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? YES__ NO_x_
OTHER_____

18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES_x_ NO___ IF NOT, ITS DISPOSISTION_____	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES_x_ NO___

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 5/12/96	21. RECEIVED BY (Name & OFFICE) Sidney C. Englander, FOWR/NOL	22. DOCUMENT NO. G65 0127A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION IDI 960521CCN1210		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 0702 EX. 1
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE	

960521CCN1210

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
SAMPLE COLLECTION REPORT

1. Sample Flag	**2. Date Collected** 6/4/96	**3. Sample Type and Number:** 96-830-4058 ● Physical ○ Documentary	
4a Product Name SMOKE DETECTOR	**4b Model** SA670	**4c NEISS** 0702	**5. Assignment Number**
6. Complete for Import Samples Port of Entry: Country of Origin: Entry No. and Date: Customs Contact:		**7. MIS** 32626	**8. Hours** Activity 4 Travel 2
		9a Home RO FOCR	**9b Collecting RO** FOCR

10. Sample Cost $18.00	**11. Invoice Value of Lot** $18.00	**12. Size of Lot** 2 **Units** unt
13. Manufacturer/Importer # BRK003 BRK ELECTRONICS-PITTWAY CC 780 MCCLURE ROAD AURORA, IL 60504	**14. Shipper/Foreign Manufacturer** SAME AS MFR.	**15. Dealer/Import Broker #** HOME DEPOT ATLANTA, GEORGIA (SEE REMARKS SECTION)

16. Supporting documents attached:
Invoice No. and Date: N/A Date Shipped:
Shipping Record and Date: N/A
Affidavit Signer's name, title and date: N/A

17. Product Identification:
Product is a smoke detector made of a hard plastic type material. The front cover is labeled in part: "First Alert..DETECTOR WILL NOT OPERATE IF BATTERY IS DEAD, DISCONNECTED OR IMPROPERLY INSTALLED..."

18. Reason for collection/analysis needed: ○ FHSA ● CPSA ○ FFA ○ PPPA ○ RSA
f/u to IDI960521CCN1210-detector did not alarm during fire

19. Summary of Field Screening:
NO FIELD SCREENING WAS CONDUCTED.

20. Sample size/Method of Collection:
Sample consists of 2 smoke detectors collected from consumer as indicated in remarks section. Sample was photographed, identified, placed in a plastic bag, sealed and then placed in a cardboard box for

21. Identification on sample: 96-830-4058 SUBS 1-2 JLB 6/4/96	**22. Identification on seal and date:** 96-830-4058 Jimmie L. Barrett 6/5/96
23a Sample delivered to: UPS, ATLANTA, GA.	**23b Date** 6/10/96 **24. Report/Record Sent to:** FOCR

25. Laboratory/Office: LSHL ___ LSEL ___ CRM ___ CCA X Other ___

26. Remarks:
Sample was collected from consumer (Mr. Charles Englander, 4605 Mountain Creek Dr., Roswell, Ga. 30075 as f/u to IDI 960521CCN1210 - smoke detector did not go off when smoke from a fireplace filled rooms

27. Related Samples: none

28a Collector's name/title: Jimmie L. Barrett Resident Investigator	**28b Collector's signature/date:**
29a Reviewer's name/title:	**29b Reviewer's signature/date:**

EX. 2

CONTINUATION OF NARRATIVES FOR SAMPLE # 96-830-4058 96 0521CCN12-10

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

The back cover has a stick-on type label which states in part: UL...S-1208..SINGLE STATION SMOKE DETECTOR...First Alert MODEL NO. SA670....780 McCLURE RD. AURORA, IL 60504-2495...."
The smoke detector is equipped with a 9 volt size "EVEREADY Energizer ALKALINE BATTERY"

METHOD OF COLLECTION

shipment to CCA-ATTN: Pam Major - THUR: Sample Custodian.
NOTE: Sub 2 is labeled in part on the back cover: "..FIRST ALERT...ASSEMBLED IN MEXICO..." Sub 1 is labeled on the back cover in part: "PITTWAY CORPORATION...." The top cover of sub 1 measures approximately 6-1/4" in diameter. The top cover of sub 2 measures approximately 5-1/4" in diameter. The base portion of sub 1 and 2 measures approximately 5" in diameter.

REMARKS

in the complainant's home).
Attachments - Assignment Sheet, Incident Report and Receipt for Samples.

Ex. 2

96052/CCN 1210

U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF NAME

Thank you for assisting us in collecting information on a potential product safety problem. The Consumer Product Safety Commission depends on concerned people to share product safety information with us. We maintain a record of this information, and use it to assist us in identifying and resolving product safety problems.

We routinely forward this information to manufacturers and private labelers to inform them of the involvement of their product in an accident situation. We also give the information to others requesting information about specific products. Manufacturers need the individual's name so that they can obtain additional information on the product or accident situation.

Would you please indicate on the bottom of this page whether you will allow us to disclose your name. If you request that your name remain confidential, we will of course, honor that request. After you have indicated your preference, please sign your name and date the document on the lines provided.

☒ You are hereby authorized to disclose my name and address with the information collected on this case.

☐ My identity is to remain confidential.

Charles G. Englander 6-4-96 EX. 3

(Signature) (Date)

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

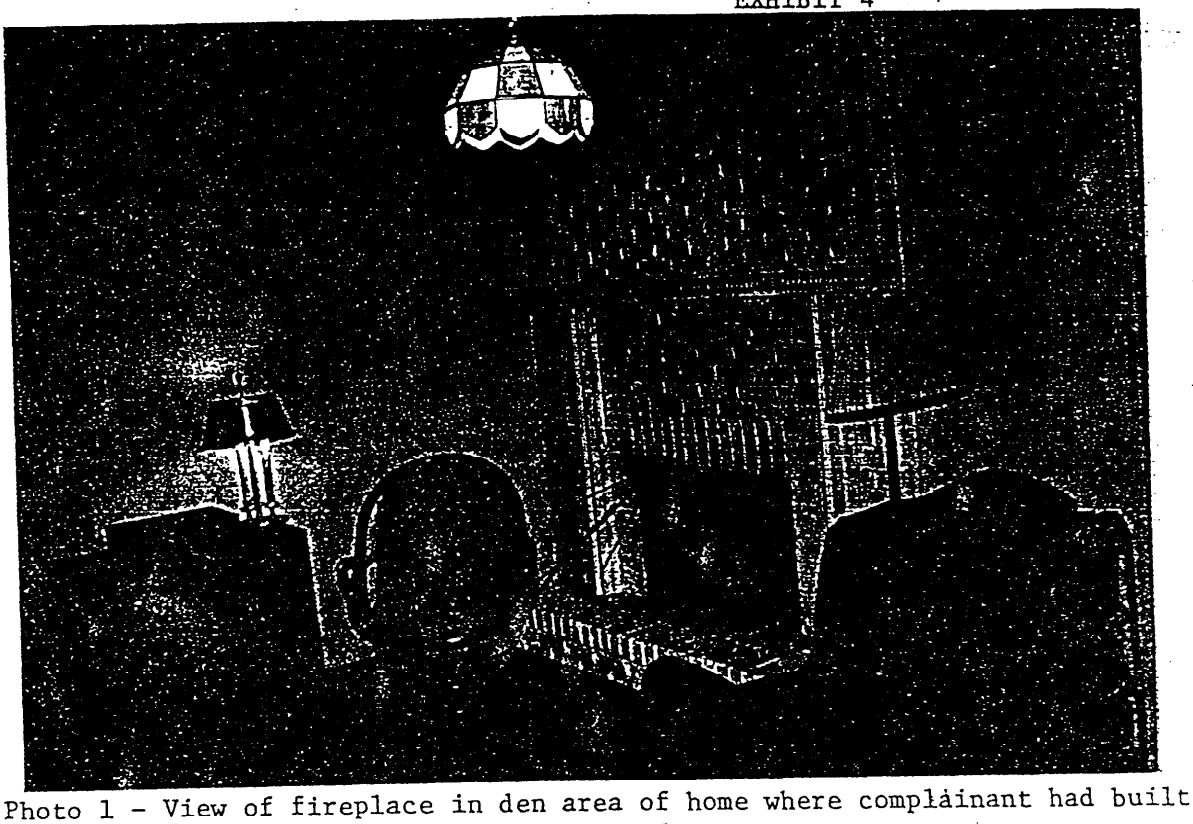

Photo 1 - View of fireplace in den area of home where complainant had built a fire prior to smoke and soot damage.

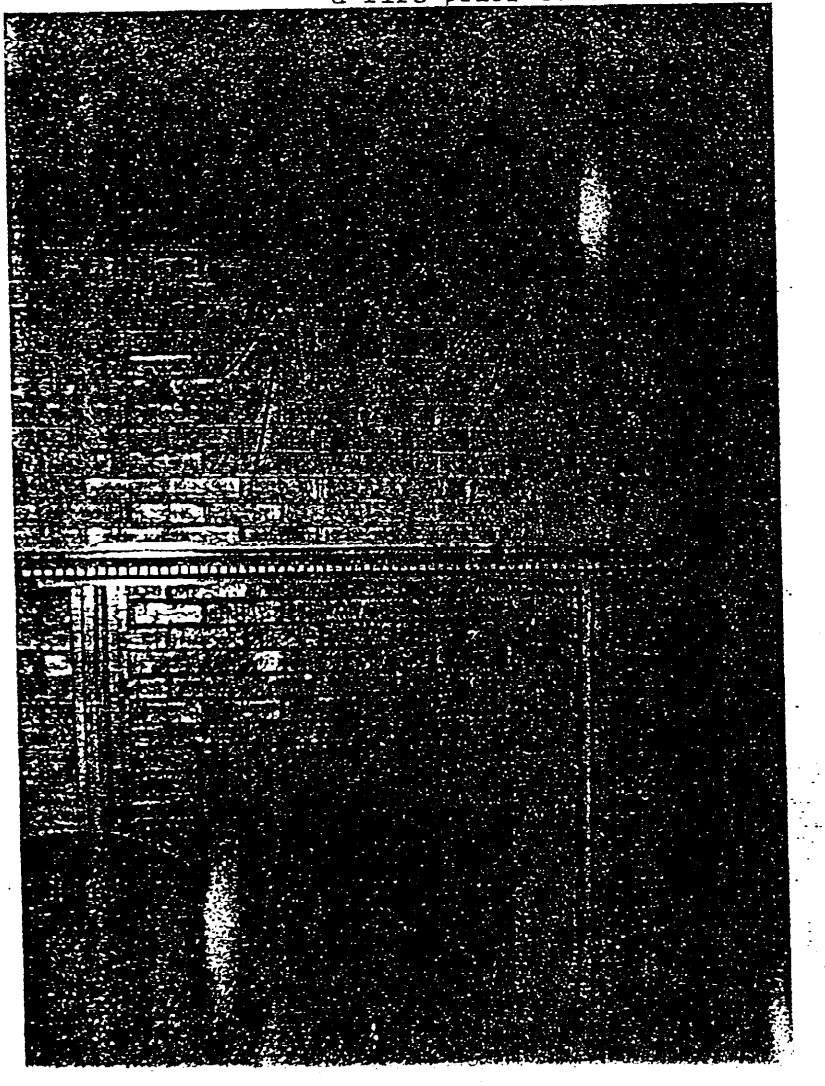

Photo 2 - View of den area showing some smoke damage to ceiling.

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

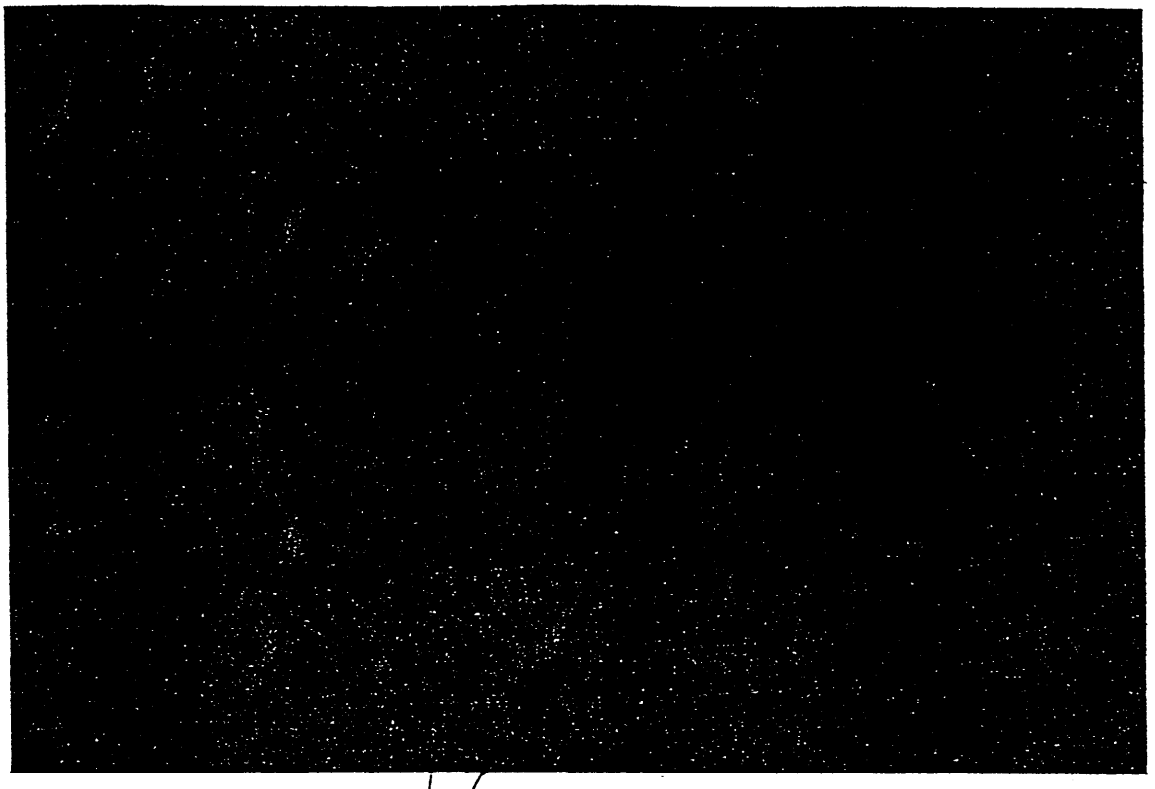

Photo 3 - Closer view of smoke damage to ceiling in den area.

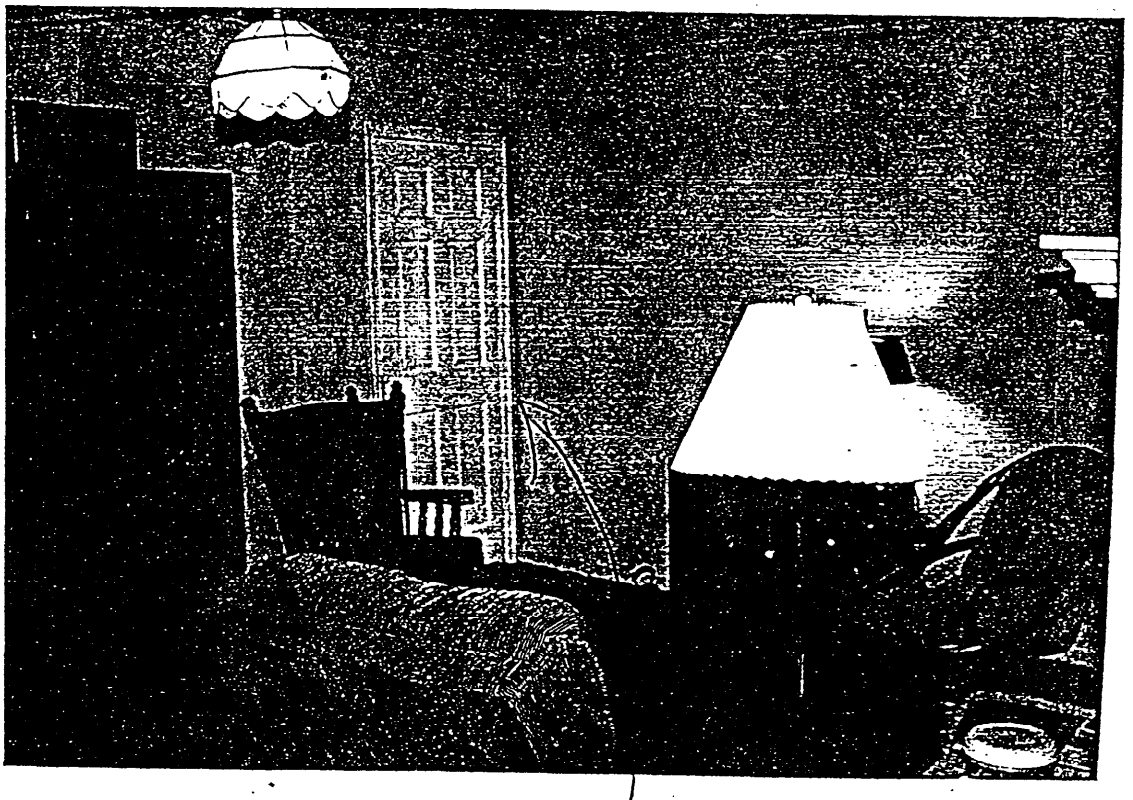

Photo 4 - View of den area showing doorway leading to the hallway where one of the smoke detectors was located at the time of the incident. (NOTE: Complainant stated doorway was closed when smoke and soot first originated but was opened when smoke filled the room and the detector in the hallway did did alarm)

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

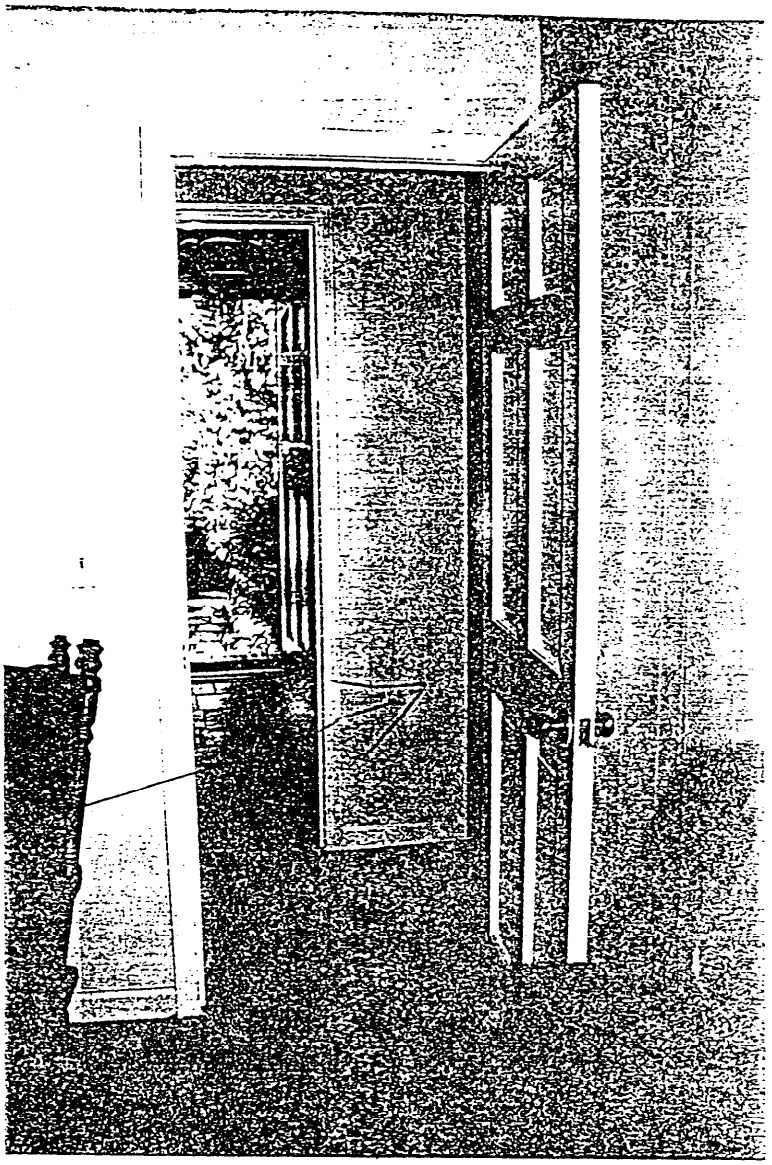

Photo 5 - View of doorway leading from the den into the hallway where one of the detectors was located. This is the same door shown in photo 4 which was in the closed position.

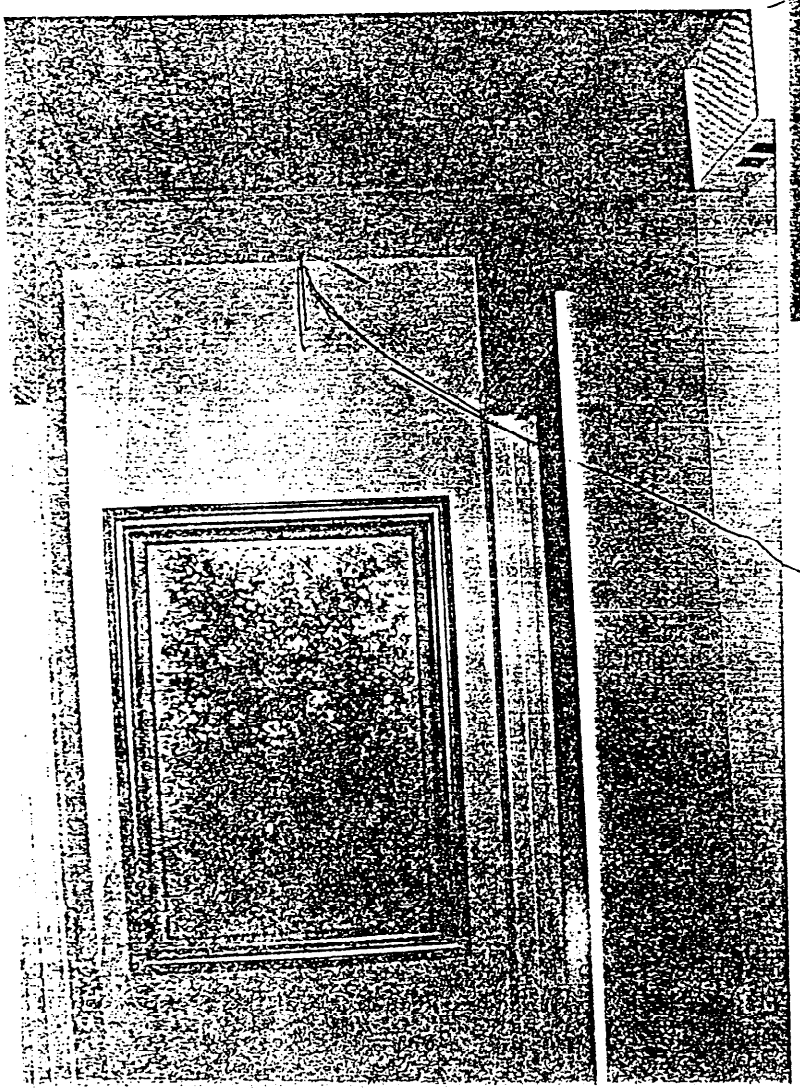

Photo 6 - View of hallway where one of the smoke detectors was located in the ceiling.

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EXHIBIT 4

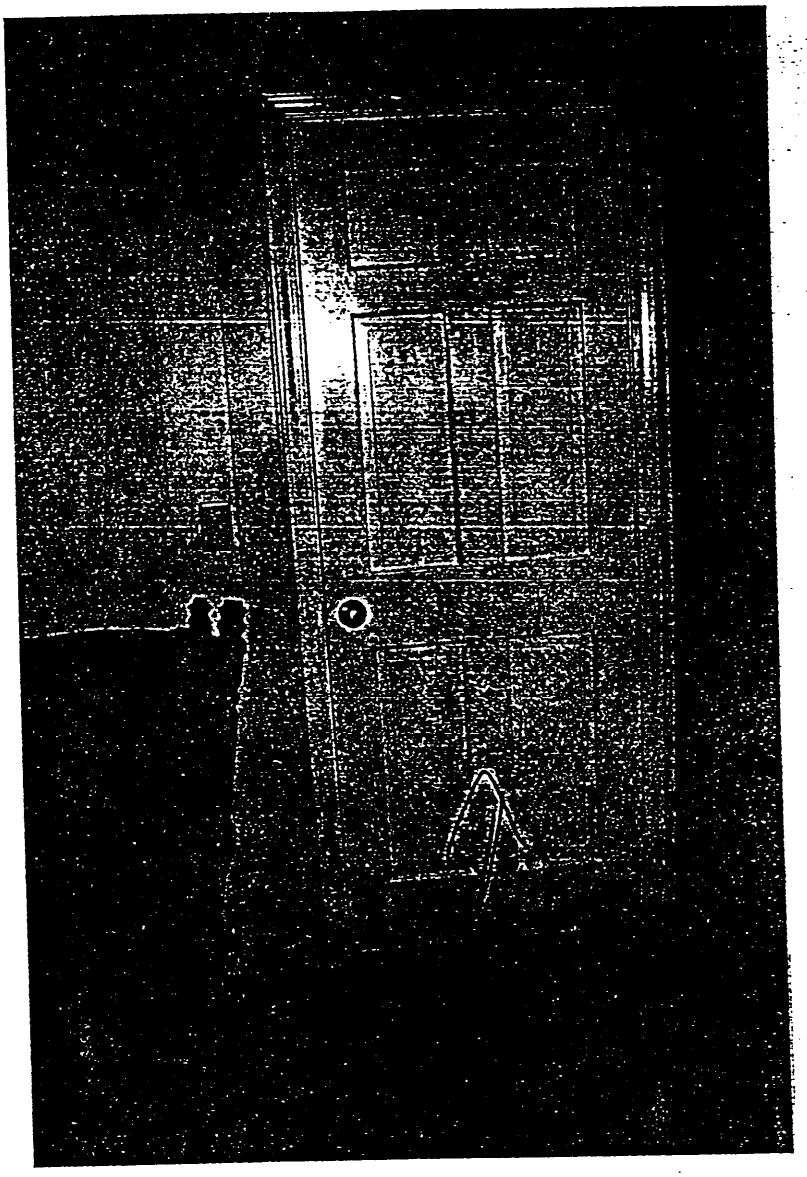


Photo 7 - View of doorway leading from the den into the hallway in the closed position.

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

Photo 8 - Close view of detector in ceiling portion of hallway.

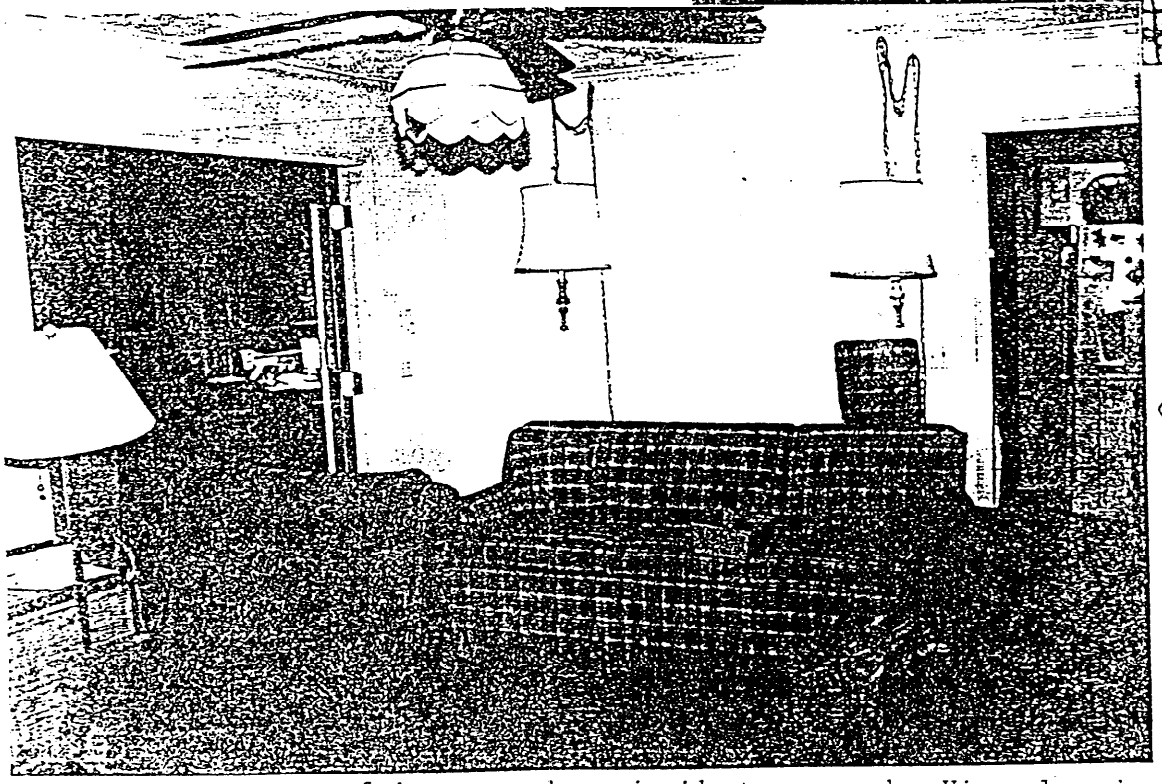


Photo 9 - View of den area where incident occurred. View also shows doorway leading to closed in porch area and doorway leading to the kitchen where [illegible]

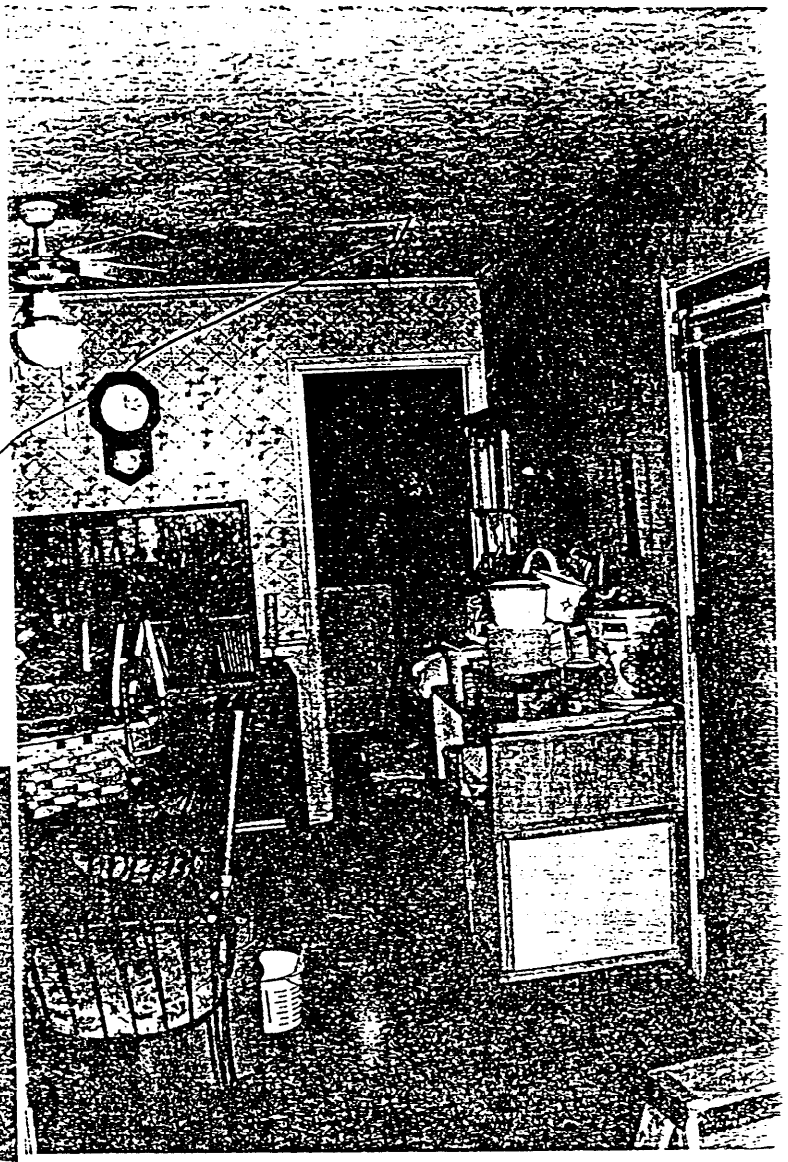


Photo 10 - View showing kitchen area where one of the detectors was located. Distance from fireplace in den to area in kitchen where detector was located measures approximately 39 feet.

Photo 11 - View of complainant reenacting the scene to demonstrate where the detector in the kithen (which had been removed) was originally located.

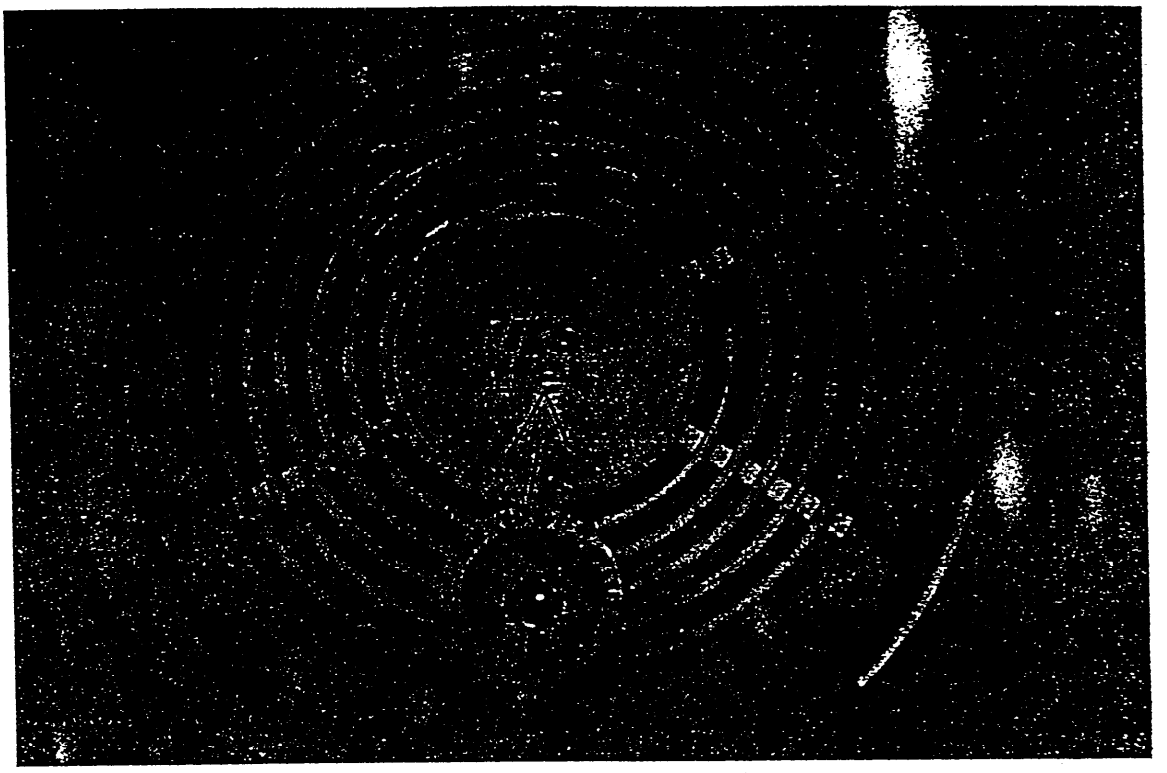


Photo 12 - View of top portion of smoke detector which was originally located in the kitchen. Labeling states in part "First Alert....."

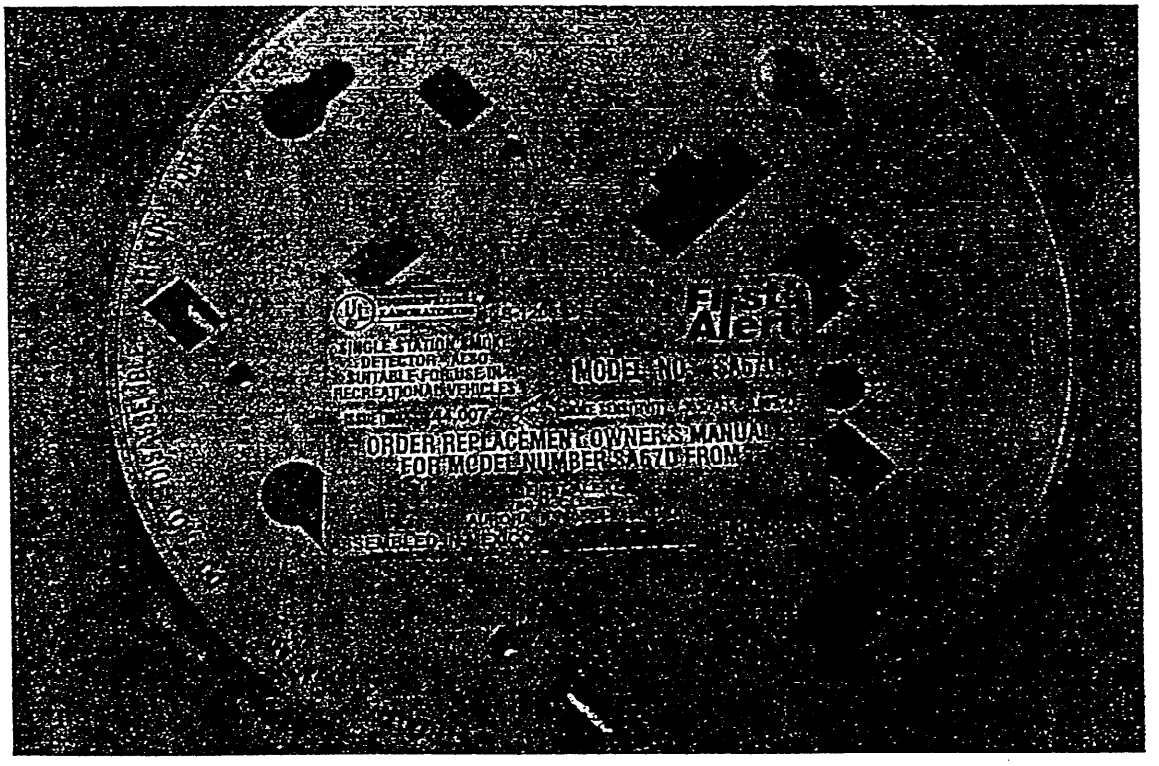


Photo 13 - View of labeling on back cover of detector that was located in the kitchen. Label states in part: "...MODEL NO. SA670..FIRST ALERT... AURORA, IL... ASSEMBLED IN MEXICO..."

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

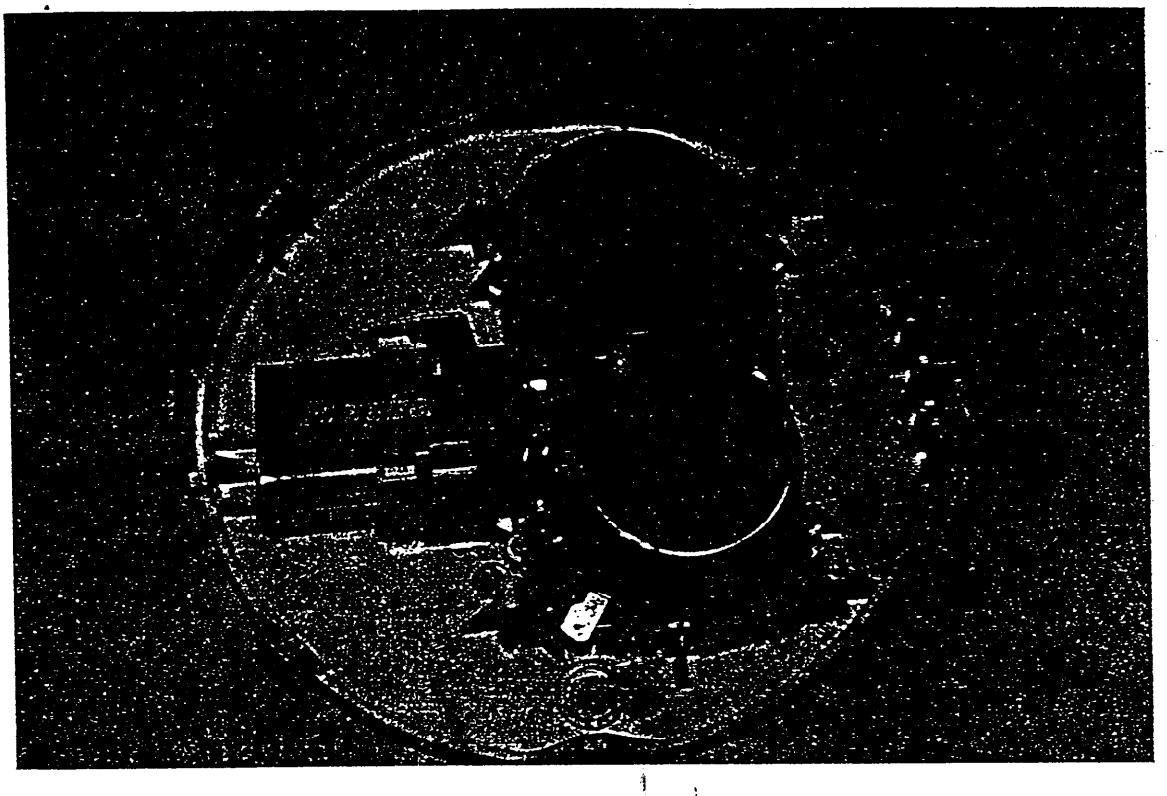
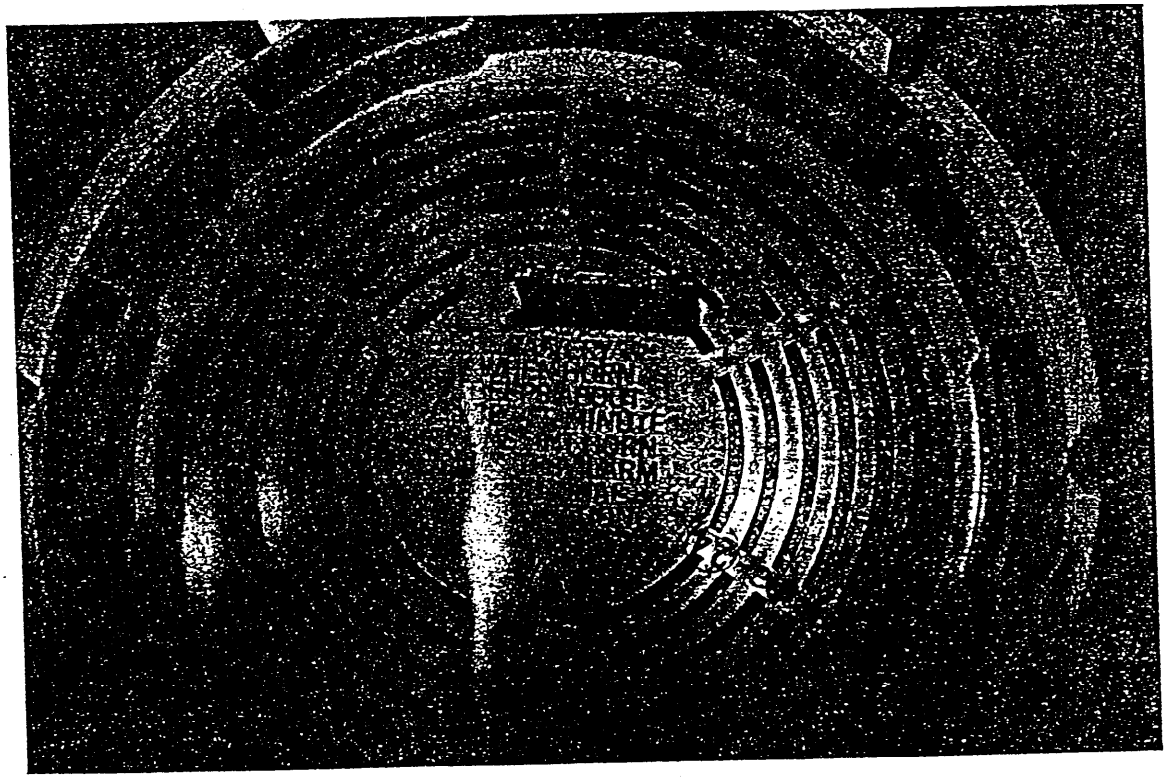


Photo 14 - View of components inside detector located in kitchen showing type of battery, etc.



hoto 15 - View of loabeling on inside portion of top cover of detector that was located in the kitchen identified as Sub 2 in SCR 96-830-4058.

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

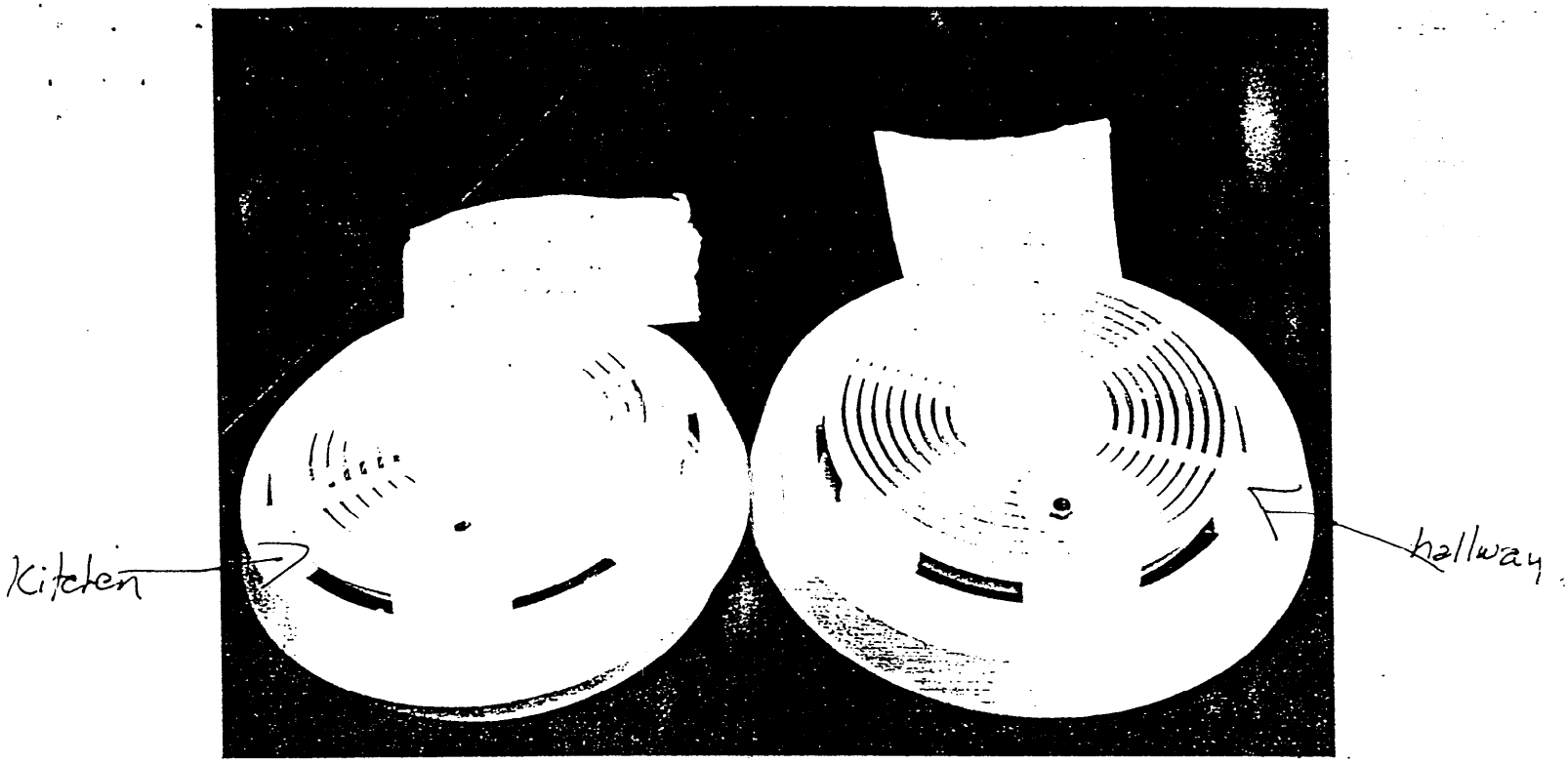


Photo 16 - Close view of detector that was located in the kitchen and hallway. The one in the kitchen was identified in SCR 96-830-4058 as Sub 2 and the one in the hallway was identified in SCR 96-830-4058 as Sub 1.

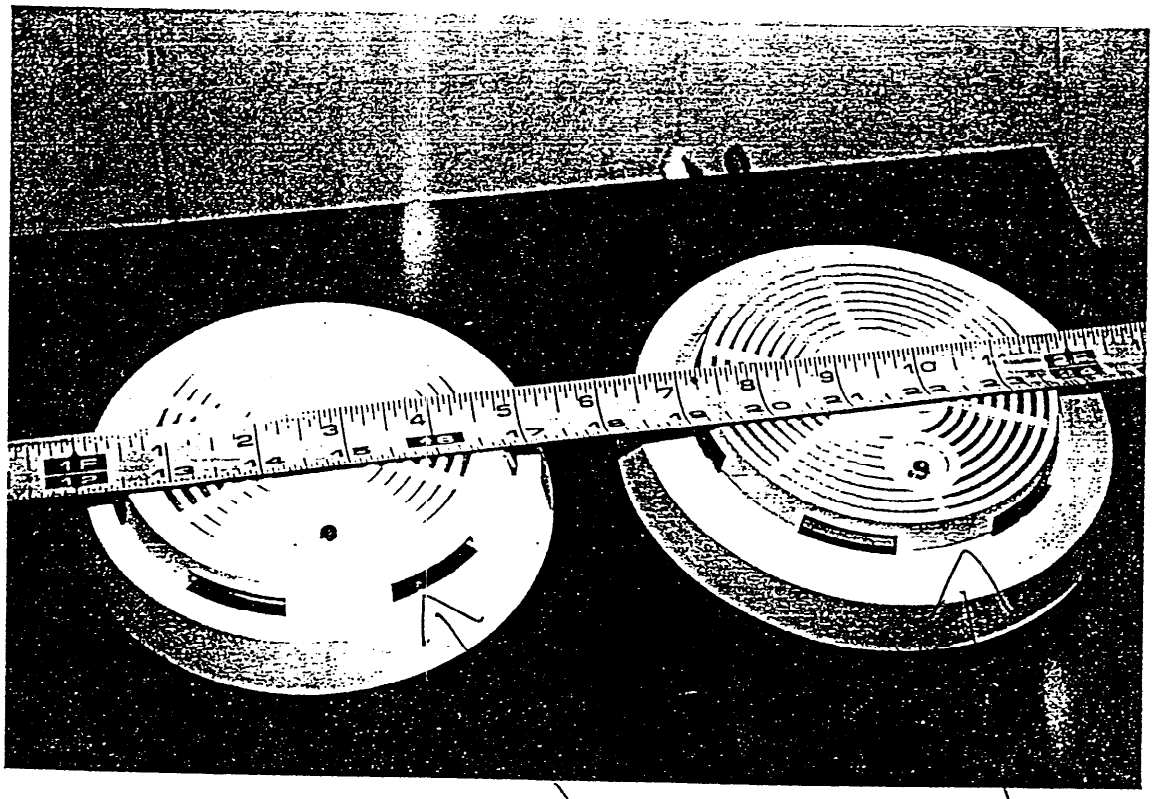


Photo 17 - View using ruler to demonstrate the approximate diameter of the detectors. The one located in the kitchen is slightly smaller. It measures approximately 5-1/4" in diameter and the one in the hallway measures approximately 6-1/4" in diameter on the top cover portion.

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

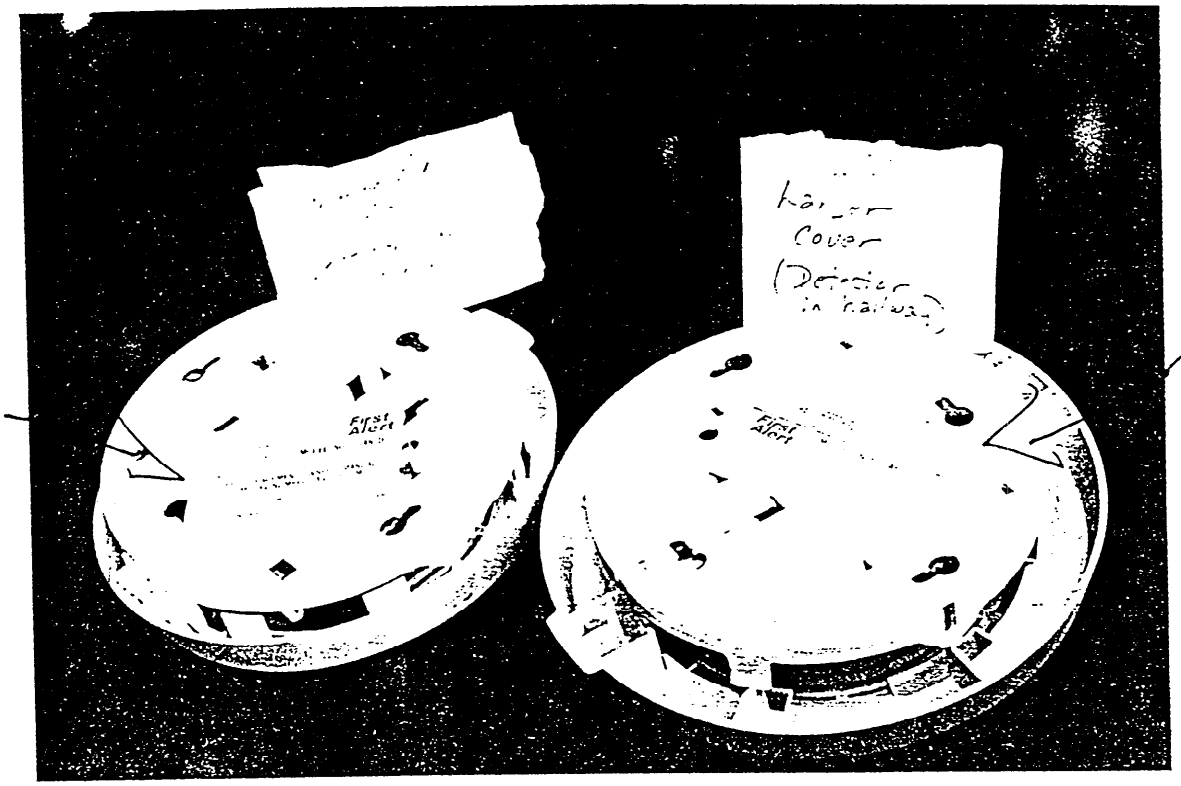


Photo 18 - Close view of bottom portion of both detectors involved in incident.

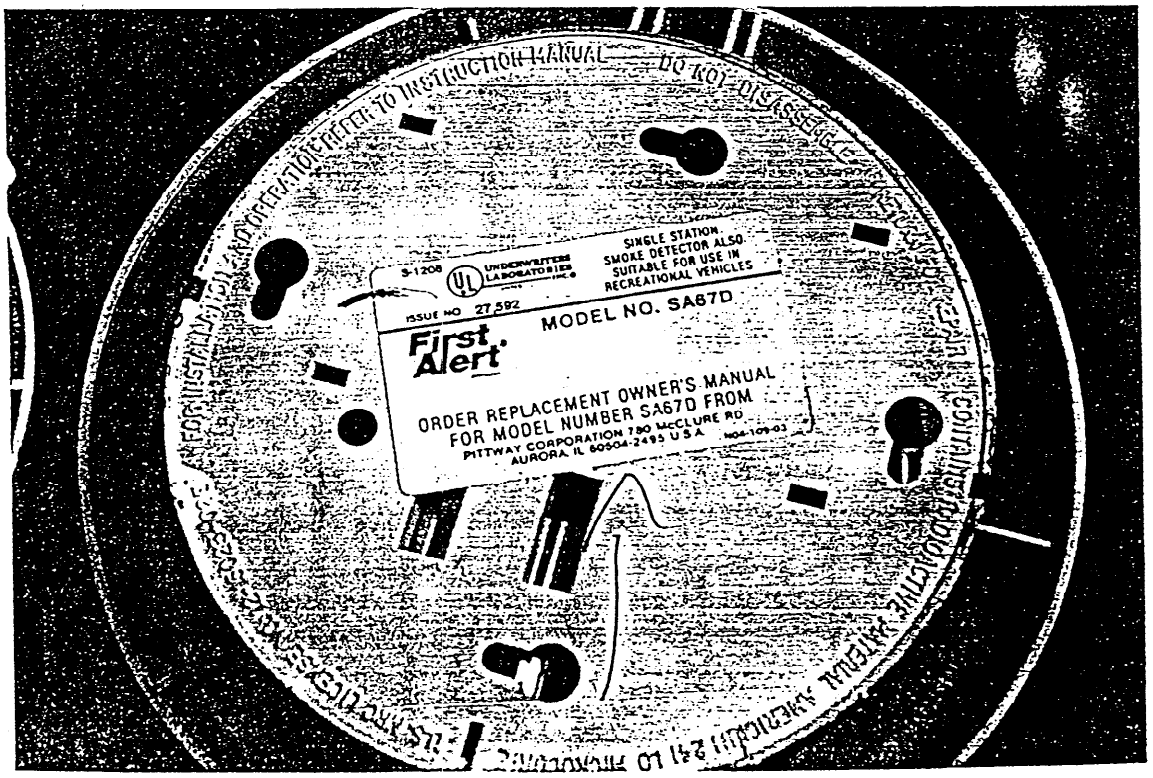


Photo 19 - View of labeling on back cover of detector in hallway indicating in part:

960521CCN1210
EXHIBIT 4

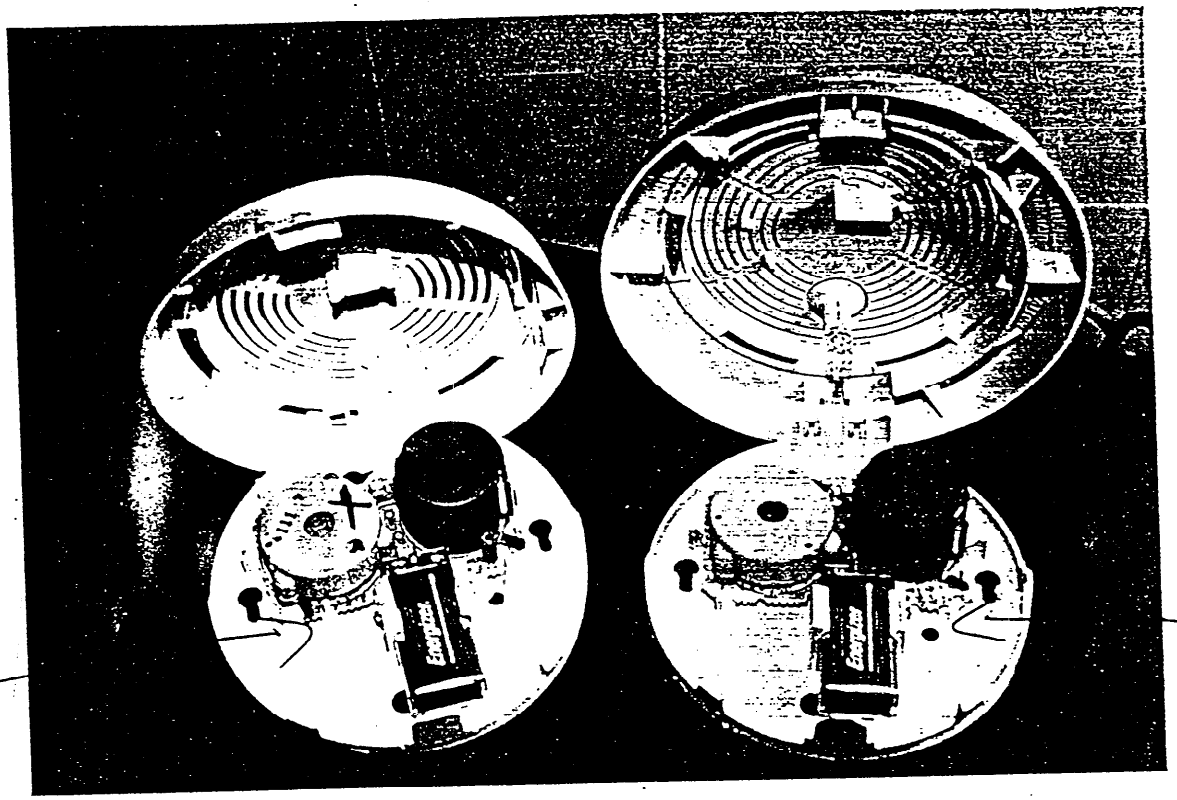


Photo 20 - Close view of inside components of detector in kitchen and hallway. Both detectors use the same type battery.

Photo 21 - Close view of labeling on battery indicating in part: EVEREADY Energizer..."

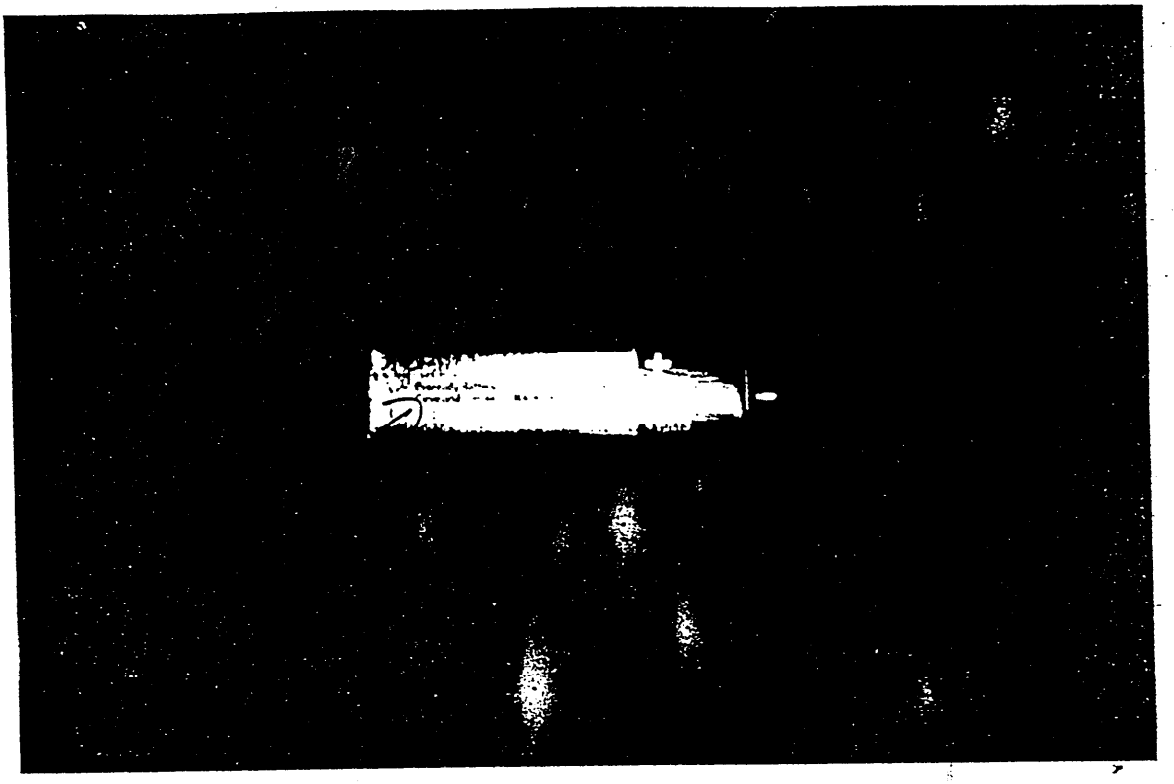


Photo 22 - View of labeling information on 9 volt battery indicating in part: " Eveready Battery...Cleveland, OH....

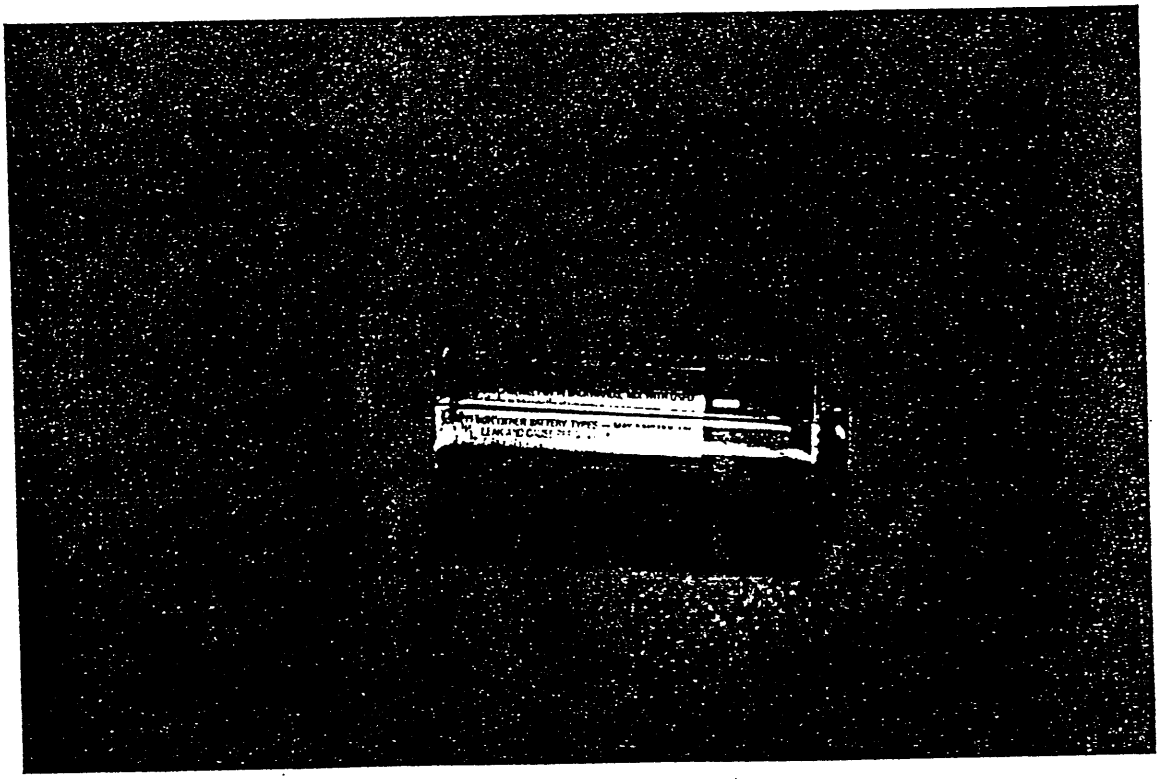


Photo 23 - View of labeling on battery indicating in part: "WARNING...."

Ex. 4

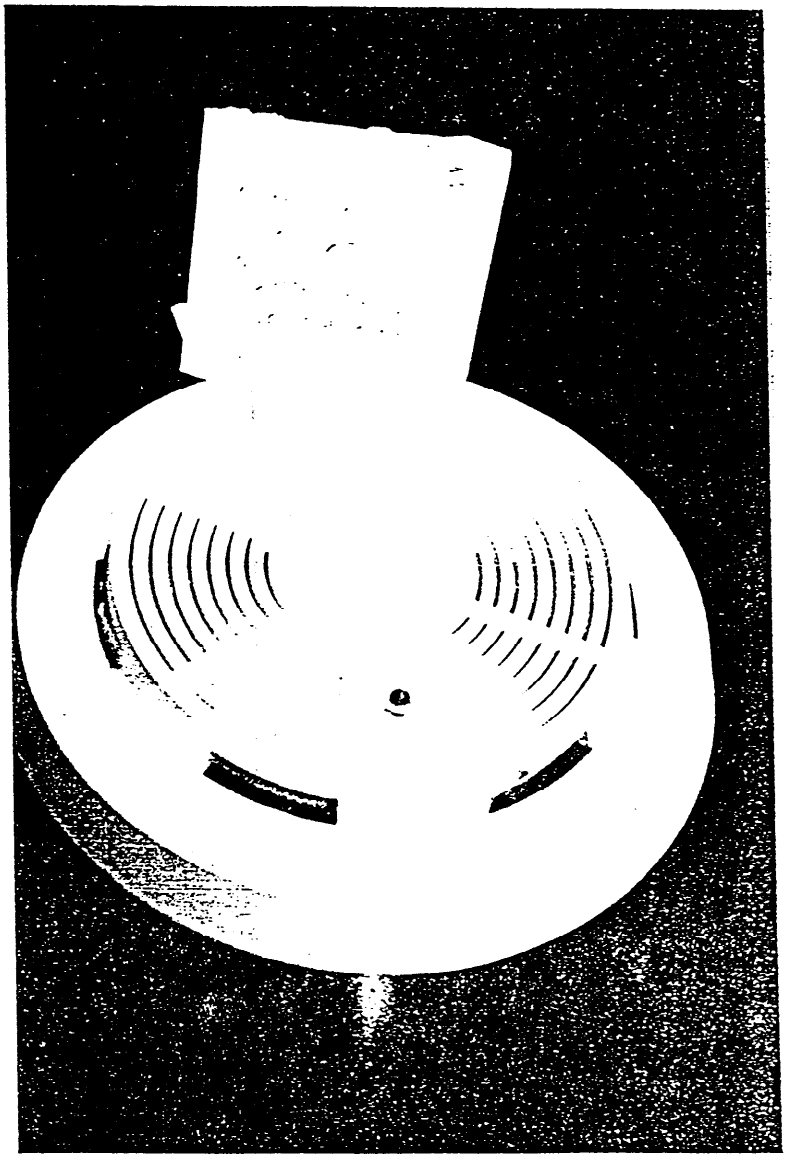


Photo 24 - Close view of battery that was located in hallway.

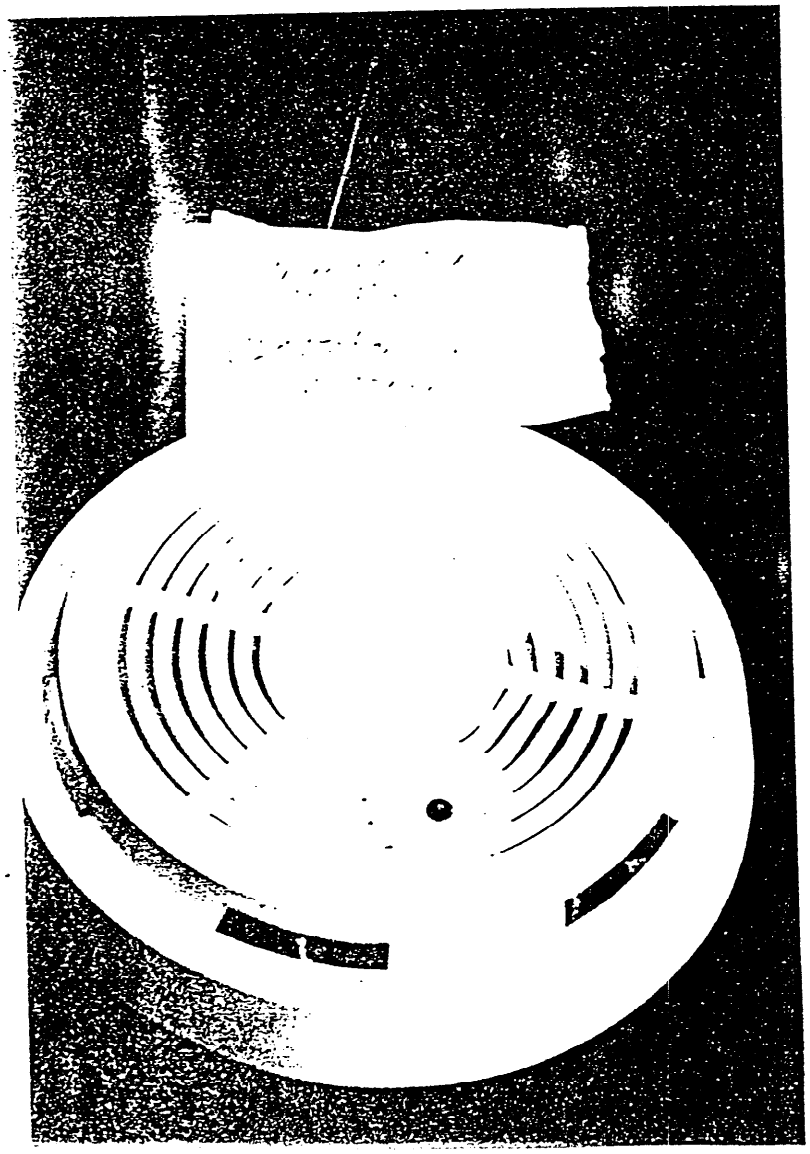


Photo 25 - Close view of battery that was located in kitchen.

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EXHIBIT 4

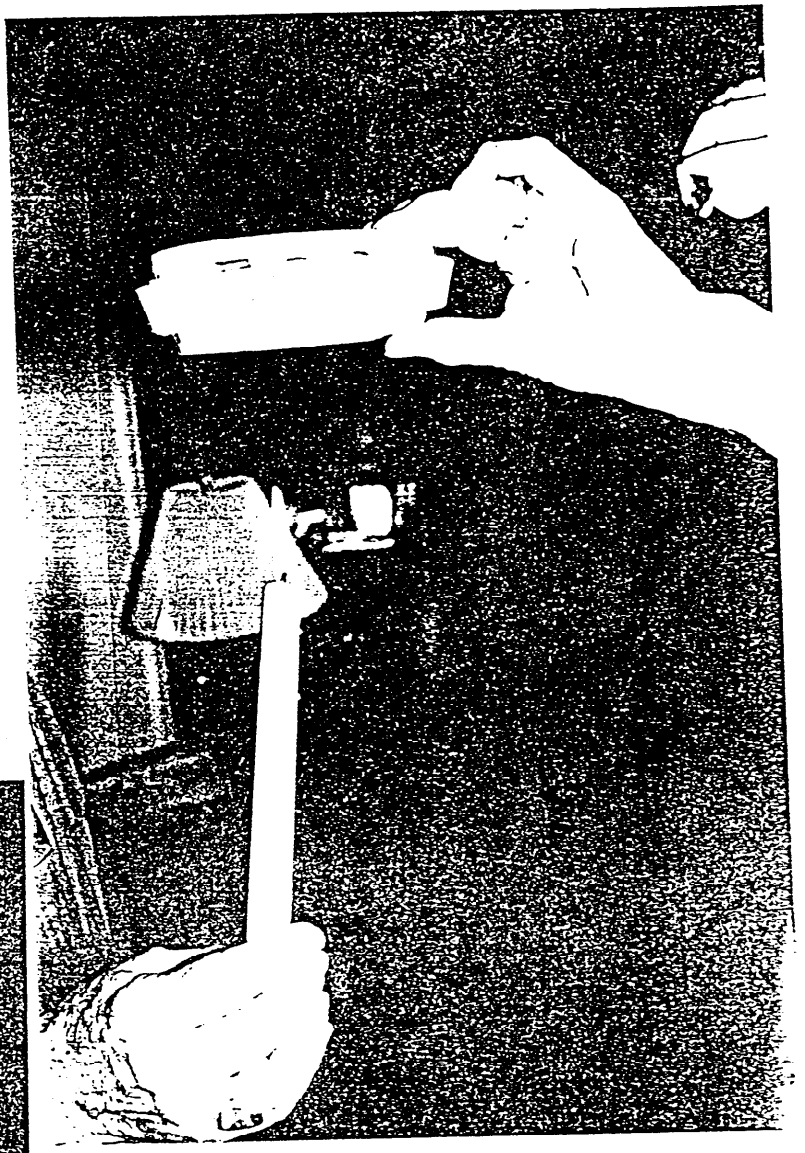

Photo 26 - Close view of candle being used to recreate the scene to see if detector would alarm when subjected to heat and it did. This is the detector that was located in the kitchen.

Photo 27 - Same test being conducted as the one indicated in photo 26 above using the detector located in hallway. This detector also sounded when subjected to heat.