



**SUMMARY:**

The complainant was replacing the battery on her smoke detector when it emitted flame and her hair caught on fire. She extinguished the fire in her hair and went to the kitchen to get water to extinguish the flame in the smoke detector. By the time she returned from the kitchen, the smoke detector was no longer burning.

**PRE-INCIDENT:**

The complainant was not sure how long ago the unit was purchased. She estimated that it was approximately 15-20 years ago. In those years, she said she had never had any problems with the unit. She was babysitting her granddaughter the afternoon of the incident. The smoke detector had been beeping indicating that the battery needed to be changed. The smoke detector is in the hallway between the living room and the bedrooms. She stood on a stool to change the battery.

**INCIDENT:**

She was getting off the stool after changing the battery when her granddaughter said, "Grandma, your hair is on fire."

**POST-INCIDENT:**

The complainant grabbed the top of her head, and when she did so, the fire in her hair went out. She then went to the kitchen to get water to extinguish the flames. By the time she returned, the smoke detector was no longer on fire. The unit was dripping a plastic like substance onto the floor and was charred on the outside. She called her neighbor to come over and remove the smoke detector from the ceiling in the hallway.

After the incident, the complainant called the manufacturer to request information about the smoke detector. The representative who answered the telephone said they had never had a recall or any problems with their smoke detectors. The complainant said that the representative said several times, "What do you want us to do about it?" The complainant was concerned about the danger to others, and tried to get this point across to the representative. The representative told the complainant to return the smoke detector to the manufacturer. At this time, the complainant said she would ask the advice of her son who is a lawyer before returning the unit. The next day, the representative called the complainant to ask further questions, and again asked that the unit be returned to the manufacturer.

The complainant contacted her son, who, in turn contacted CPSC.

**PRODUCT INFORMATION:**

The smoke detector is round and approximately 5-1/2" in diameter. Labeling on the back of the smoke detector reads, "S-1208, UL Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., CAUTION radioactive material Am 241 5.0uCi, for repair or disposal return to Pittway Corp. 780 McClure Ave., Aurora, IL 60507 U.S.A., First Alert by Pittway, Model No. SA76RS, install per owners manual (same as model no.) and NFPA Std.74 available at 470 Atlantic Ave. Boston, MA 02210, Made in U.S.A., Removal of Label Prohibited 12-15023-02E."

Model: SA76RS

**MANUFACTURER:**

Pittway Corporation  
780 McClure Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60507

**PERSONS CONTACTED:**

Complainant

**SAMPLE**

Sample #96-830-3171 was collected.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

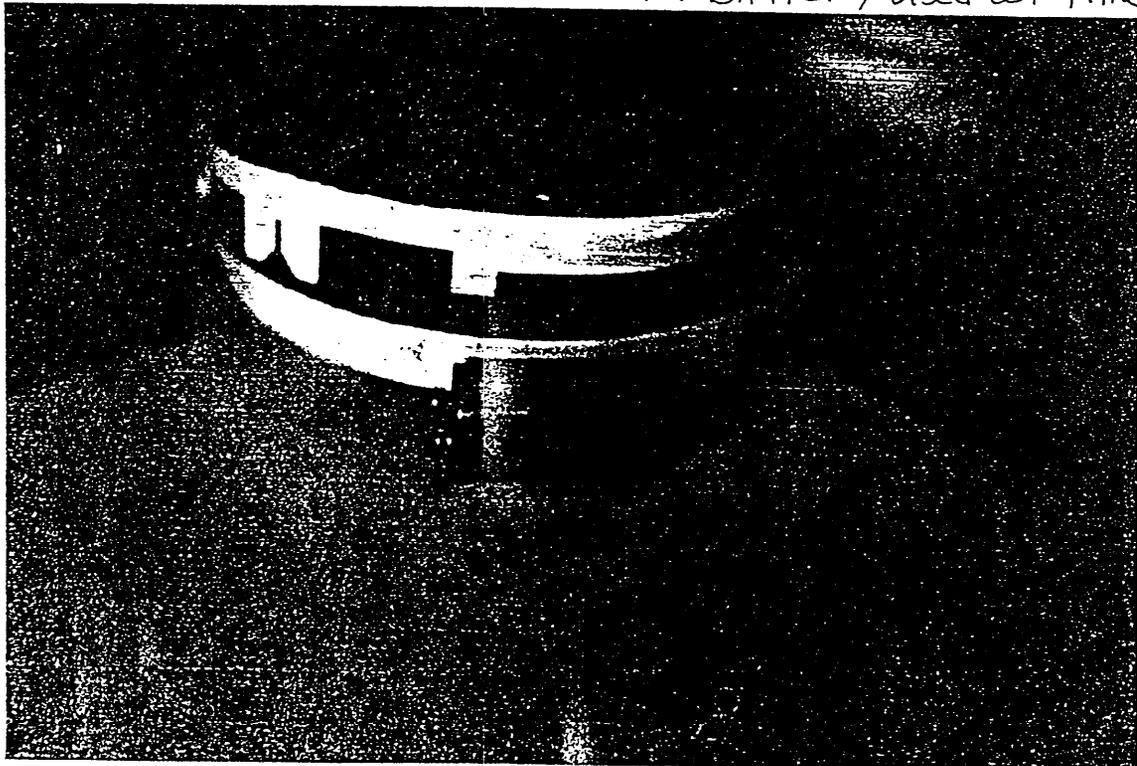
Release of Name Form  
Photographs

951212 CCN 0363

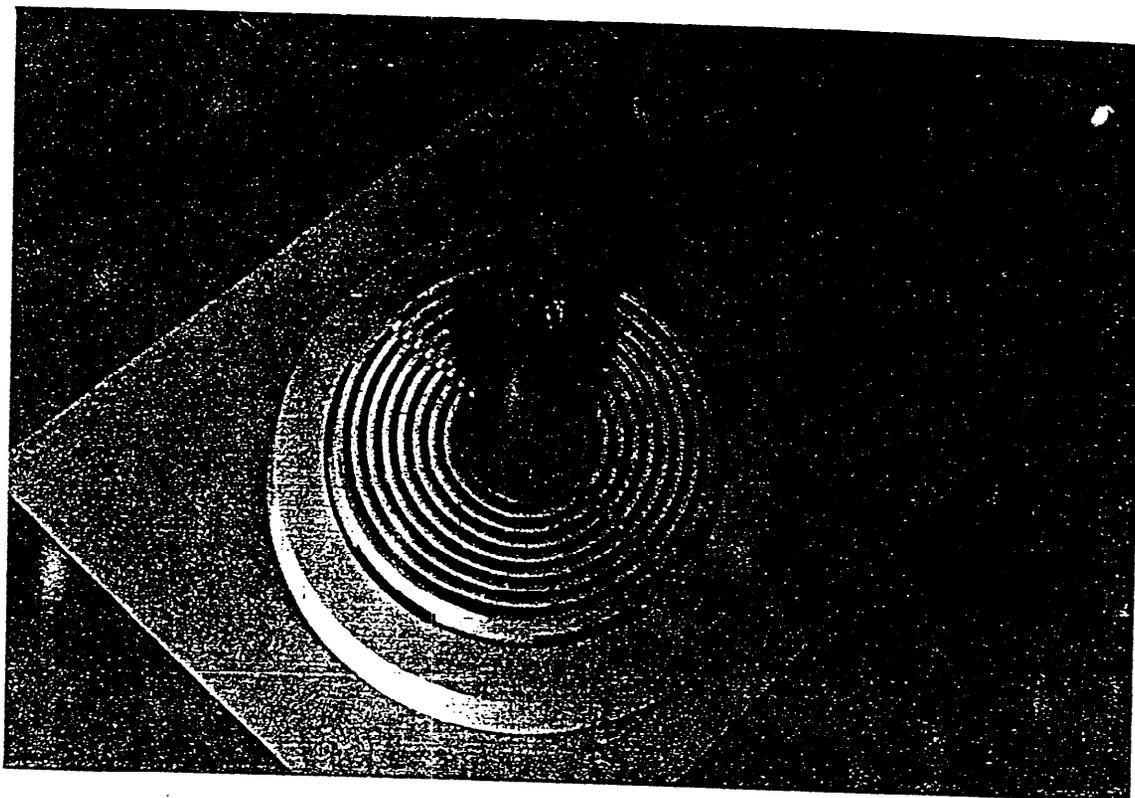
Portion of hair burned when smoke detector  
CAUGHT ON FIRE



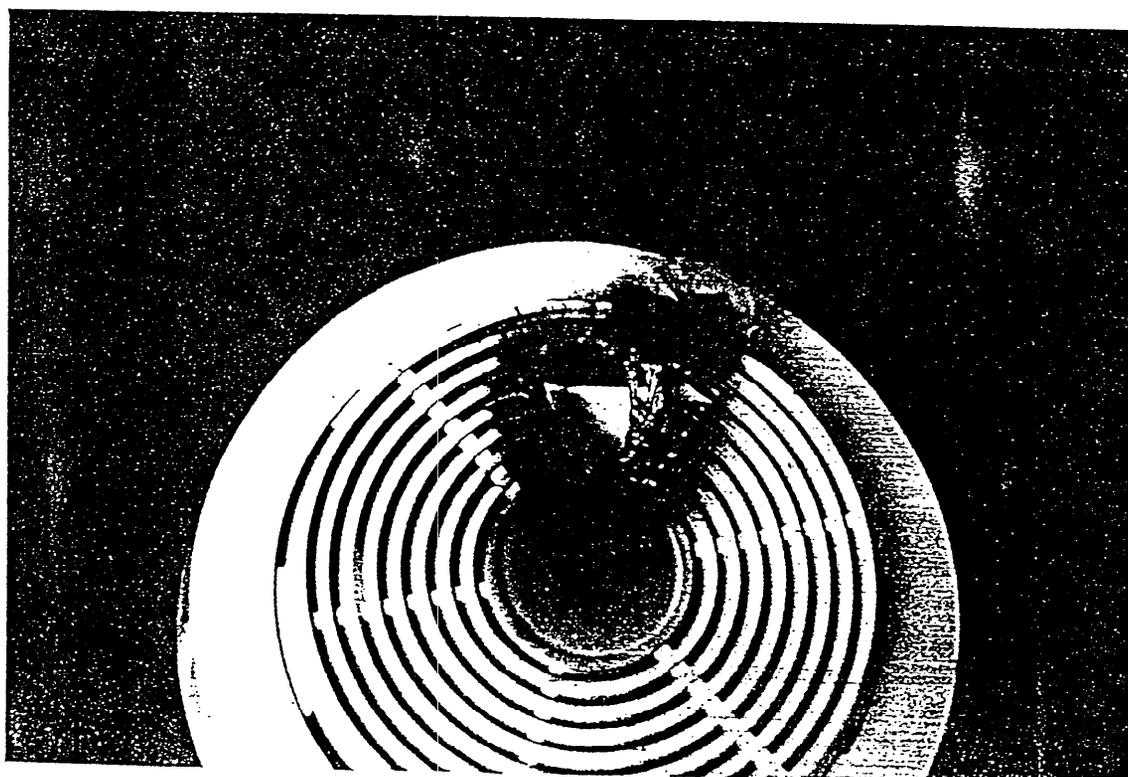
Smoke Detector with Battery Used at time of incident



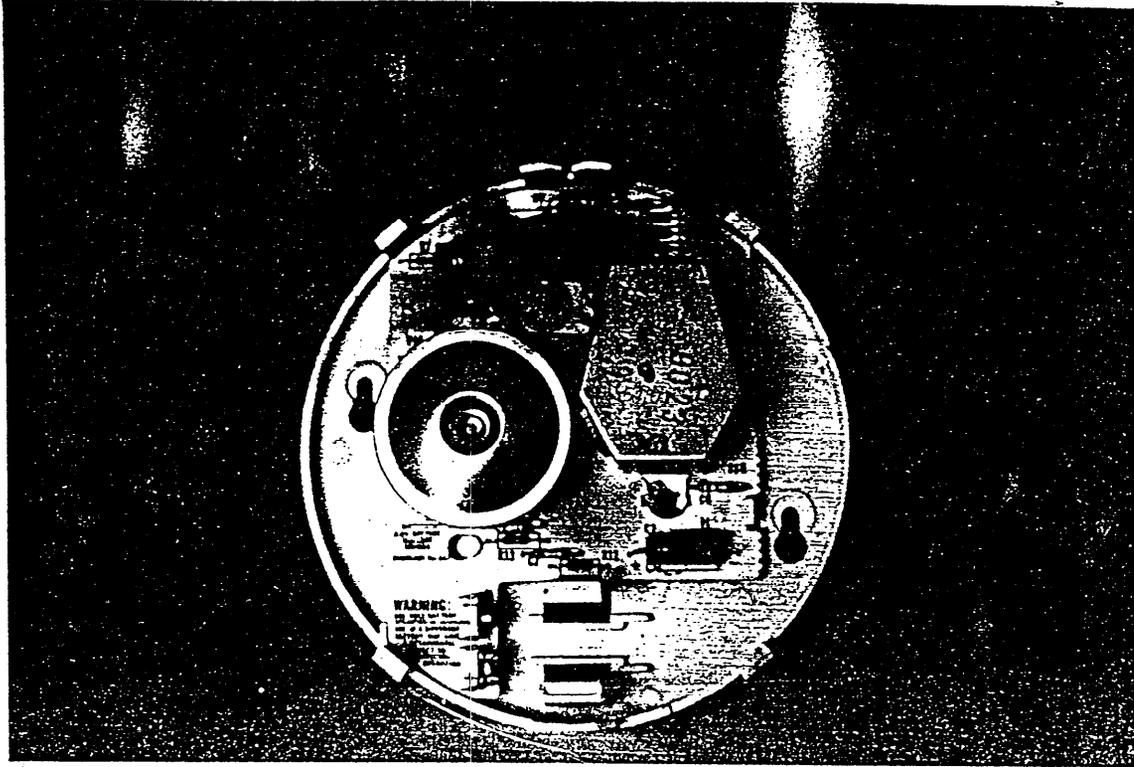
Burned area on outside of smoke detector



Closer View



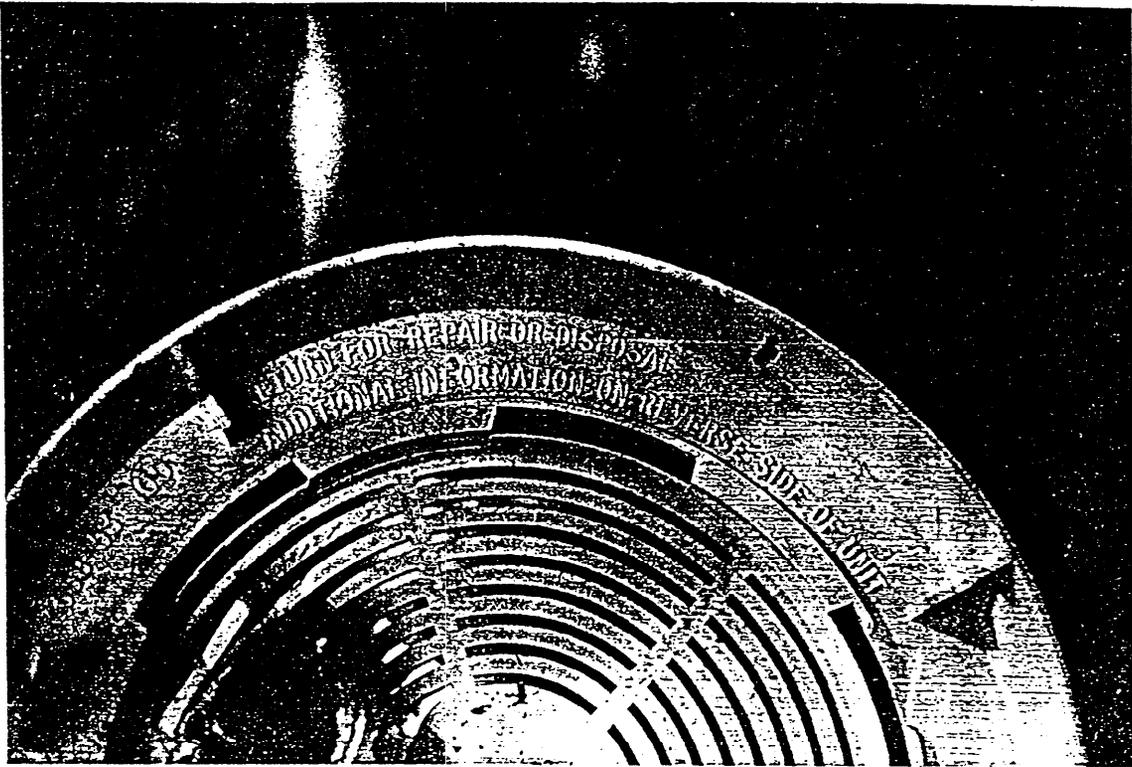
Burned Area Inside of Smoke Detector



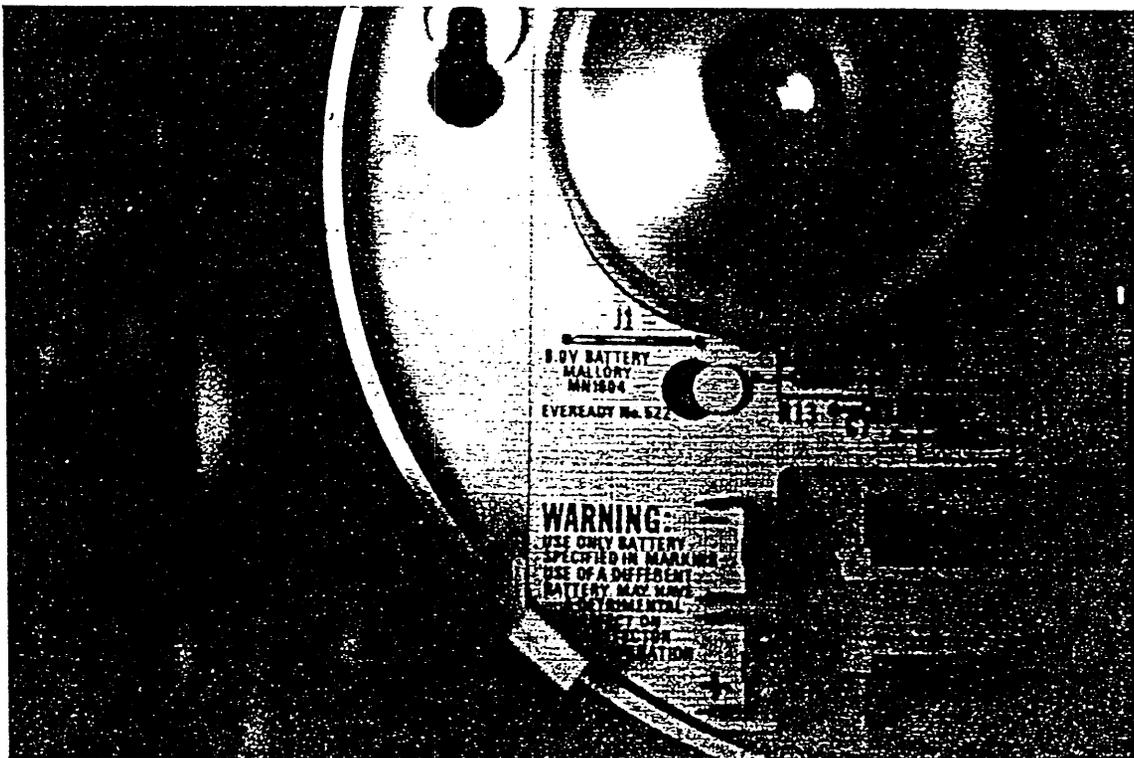
LA belings on Inside of top of smoke detector



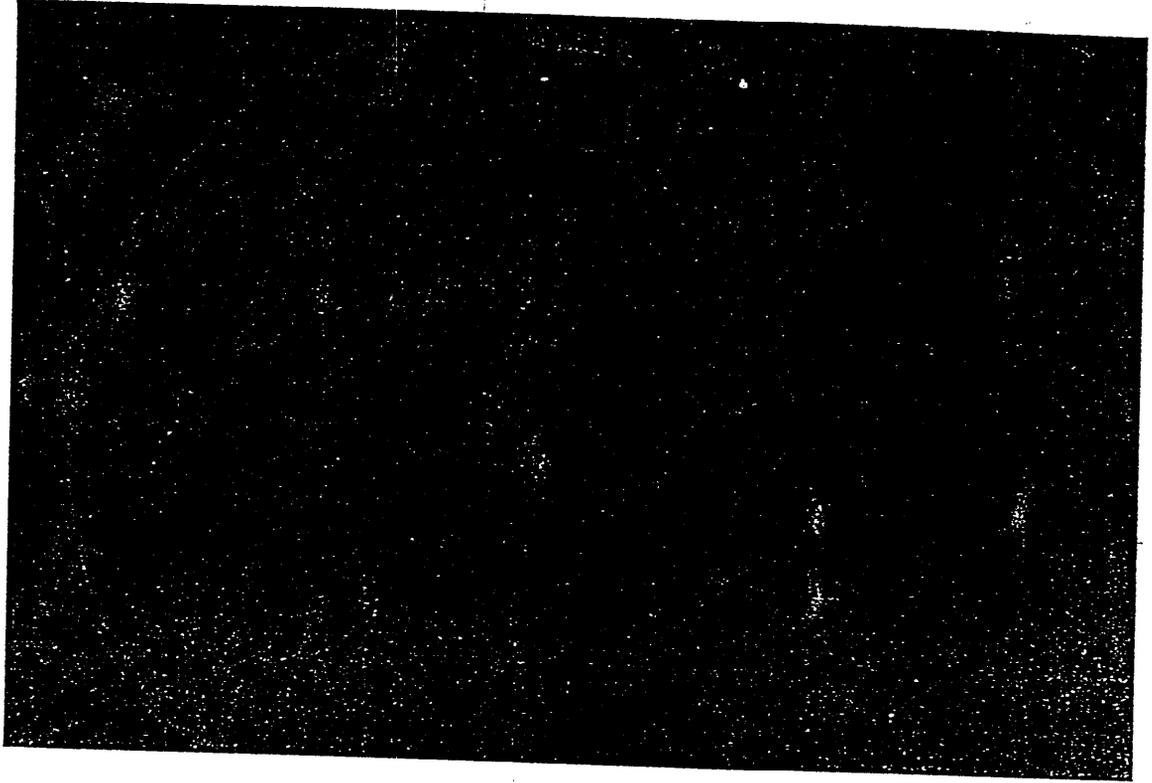
More labeling on inside of smoke detector



Warning label on inside of bottom of detector



Labeling on Back of Smoke Detector



95122CCN0363

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission SAMPLE COLLECTION REPORT			
1. Sample Flag ATTN: P. MAJOR, CCA		2. Date Collected 1/23/96	3. Sample Type and Number: 96-830-3171 <input checked="" type="radio"/> Physical <input type="radio"/> Documentary
4a Product Name SMOKE DETECTOR		4b Model SA75RS	4c NEISS 0702
5. Assignment Number 951212CCN0363			
6. Complete for Import Samples Port of Entry: _____ Country of Origin: _____ Entry No. and Date: _____ Customs Contact: _____		7. MIB 32626	8. Hours Activity _____ Travel _____
		9a Home RO FOCR	9b Collecting RO FOCR
10. Sample Cost \$0.00	11. Invoice Value of Lot \$0.00	12. Size of Lot      Units 1                      unit	
13. Manufacturer/Importer # BRK003 BRK ELECTRONICS-PITWAY C 780 MCCLURE ROAD AURORA, IL 60504		14. Shipper/Foreign Manufacturer SAME AS MANUFACTURER	15. Dealer/Import Broker # CONSUMER: J. BLAICH 2620 NW "A" RICHMOND, IN 47374
16. Supporting documents attached: Invoice No. and Date: _____ Date Shipped: _____ Shipping Record and Date: _____ Affidavit Signer's name, title and date: _____			
17. Product Identification: One smoke detector collected from consumer labeled in part, "S-1208, UL Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., CAUTION radioactive material Am 241 5.0uCi, for repair or disposal return to Pittway Corp. 780 McClure			
18. Reason for collection/analysis needed: <input type="radio"/> FHSA <input checked="" type="radio"/> CP8A <input type="radio"/> FFA <input type="radio"/> PPPA <input type="radio"/> RSA Unit collected from consumer during IDI # 951212CCN0363.			
19. Summary of Field Screening: None			
20. Sample size/Method of Collection: One unit collected from consumer, unit identified as in block 21, placed in bag, bag sealed with CPSC 164 as in block 22, CPSC 165 attached to bag, bag placed in larger box for shipment.			
21. Identification on sample: " 96-830-3171		22. Identification on seal and date: " 96-830-3171 Susan Guenette 1/26/96	
23a Sample delivered to: POST OFFICE		23b Date 1/29/96	24. Report/Record Sent to: FOCR
25. Laboratory/Office: LSHL _____ LSEL _____ CRM _____ CCA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
26. Remarks: Sample kept under locked conditions until sealed. Receipt for sample attached to original of CR.			
27. Related Samples: none			
28a Collector's name/title: Susan Guenette      Resident Investigator		28b Collector's signature/date: <i>Susan Guenette</i> 1-29-96	
29a Reviewer's name/title: James A. Miersch      Supervisor		29b Reviewer's signature/date:	

CONTINUATION OF NARRATIVES FOR SAMPLE #

96-830-3171

951212CCN0363

**PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION**

Ave., Aurora, IL 60507 U.S.A.,

First Alert by Pittway, Model No. SA76RS, install per owners manual  
(same as model no.) and...."

---

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.

V. June Blach  
(Signature)

Jan. 23, 1996  
(Date)

## CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

<b>1. NAME OF RESPONDENT</b> Ms. June Blai <sup>ch</sup> <i>Blake</i>		<b>2. TELEPHONE NO.</b> (Home) (Work) 317-966-7178	
<b>3. STREET ADDRESS</b> 2620 NW "A"		<b>4. CITY STATE ZIP CODE</b> Richmond, IN 47374	
<b>5. DESCRIBE ACCIDENT SITUATION OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES. (Use second page if necessary.)</b>  Smoke detector started flaming when a new battery was installed.			
<b>6. DATE OF INCIDENT(S)</b>	<b>7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE [ ] SEX [ ] AND DESCRIBE INJURY</b>	<b>8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME RELATIONSHIP</b>	
<b>9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT</b> Smoke detector, battery powered		<b>10. BRAND NAME</b> BRK	
<b>11. MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDRESS &amp; PHONE</b> BRK Aurora, IL		<b>12. MODEL, S</b>	
<b>14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? YES [ ] NO [ ] IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? DESCRIBE:</b>		<b>15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW [ X ] USED [ ] DATE PURCHASED [ ] - AGE [ ]</b>	
<b>17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? YES [ ] NO [ ] IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? YES [ ] NO [ ] OTHER</b>		<b>18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES [ ] NO [ ] IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION</b>	
<b>19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES [ ] NO [ ]</b>			
<b>FOR ADMINISTRATION USE</b>			
<b>20. DATE RECEIV</b> 12/12/95	<b>21. RECEIVED BY (Name &amp; Office)</b> FOCR	<b>22. DOCUMENT NO.</b> G5 0 0070A	
<b>23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION</b> Investigation <i>951212CCN0369</i>		<b>24. PRODUCT CODE(S)</b>	
<b>25. DISTRIBUTION</b> FOCR, EHDS, CAL (E. Stone)		<b>26 ENDORSER'S NAME &amp; TITLE</b>	