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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey
State Fire Marshal

Date: November 16, 2016

RE: **Recall of Kidde NightHawk Hardwired Combination Smoke/CO Alarms**

On November 10, 2016, Kidde Corporation announced a recall (<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Kidde-Recalls-Combination-Smoke-CO-Alarms>) of its Kidde NightHawk combination smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. This type of alarm is hard-wired into a home's electric power. These devices were sold through electrical distributors and home centers nationwide and online at Amazon.com from June 2004 through December 2010 for between \$40 and \$65.

The alarm can fail to continue to chirp when it reaches its seven year end of life if the batteries are replaced, leading consumers to believe it is still working. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled alarms and contact Kidde directly at their toll-free number (855-239-0490) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.kidde.com for a free replacement alarm based on date of manufacture or a discount on a new alarm.

In August 2015, Uxbridge Deputy Chief and Fire Inspector Steven Tancrell discovered an apparent problem with this particular type of alarm and notified the Department of Fire Services. Fire Protection Engineer Jacob Nunnemacher of the Fire Safety Division provided Deputy Chief Tancrell with the information necessary to report his findings to Kidde technical support and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission which ultimately led to this recall.

How Consumers Can Know if an Alarm is Subject to this Recall

This recall involves the Kidde NightHawk talking combo smoke/CO alarm with model number KN-COSM-IB and manufacture dates between June 1, 2004 and December 31, 2010. The alarms are hard-wired into a home's electric power. The unit has a compartment on the back for the installation of a replaceable 9-volt backup battery. The alarm is white, round and measures about 5 to 6 inches in diameter. "Kidde" is engraved on the front of the alarm. "Kidde," the model number and manufacture dates are printed on a label on the back on the alarm.

Dissemination of this information through media and social media is highly encouraged. Further assistance is always available from the Division of Fire Safety on this and similar issues. If you have further questions, please contact the Code Compliance Help Desk at (978) 567-3375.