

A Testimonial of:

Joseph M Fleming

Deputy Chief of the Boston Fire Brigade, Massachusetts, USA.

by

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30 years experience coming up thru the ranks.

Started as a firefighter. (1978 – 2007)

Deputy Chief since 1993

Fire Marshal for the City of Boston (1994-2002)

Has the largest database of international research and testing of smoke alarms in the world, spanning over 30 years. 1974 (FM) to 2004 (NIST).

Spent 16 years of his personal time in study and analysis of these reports. (Probably over 5,000 hours) Started after a fire in Boston in 1991. 1 surviving member told investigators that they removed battery because of false alarms. Chief Fleming started researching detector technology to find a solution.

By 1996 presented data to Mass State Building Code Board. They agree that ions more susceptible to nuisance alarms but worried about response to real fires.

Chief Fleming starts to research historical fire tests and finds multiple sources that noted ions poor response to smouldering fires.

Reports back to Board and in 1997 Massachusetts becomes first Code to restrict the use of ion technology due to nuisance alarms.

In 1997, he starts presenting paper, discussing research findings, at professional symposiums and conventions. Chief Fleming is the first researcher to recommends that Indian Dunes needs to be re-done. He also cites concern that UL217 does not properly test for smoldering smoke.

CPSC uses Chief Fleming's Research to justify new research. This research project turns into the NIST Home Smoke Alarm Report.

1999 – Chief Fleming submits proposal to NFPA 72 Committee to ban ion technology in residential occupancies. Even though none of Chief Fleming's information is refuted, NFPA says data is not compelling enough to put companies out of business.

In 2000 Chief Fleming publishes a report, in an Arson Investigators Journal, on how to investigate fatal fires, were the smoke detector is a factor. (Methodology adopted by province of Saskatchewan.)

After NIST published report in 2003 Chief Fleming presents a paper at professional symposium and Conventions showing how data contradicts NIST's conclusions.

After reviewing information presented by Chief Fleming at Underwriters Labs in 2005, UL and the National Fire Protection Research Foundation initiate a study to investigate the smoke characteristics of different material.

In 2005 Chief Fleming present all of his data to different federal agencies but is ignored. Realizing that the government will not take action Chef Fleming starts to monitor Internet every day for fatal fires. Due to this effort he is able to file over 30 complaints with the CPSC. (All of which are essentially ignored.)

Due to questions submitted by Chief Fleming in October of 2006 NIST is forced to correct several mistakes in original report. (Answer put on Internet in March of 2007.)

In April of 2007 UL release report on smoke characterization project. The data supports every prediction made by Chief Fleming in 1997 and 2004. Chief Fleming predictions based on information that was over 20 years old. So in reality the results of the project are not new information. They are support for the information first re-discovered and placed in context by Chief Fleming.

Joseph Fleming's papers pull together the data and conclusions from international research and testing of smoke alarms over the last 30 years, placing information before the reader that would ordinarily take thousands of hours of personal research to obtain.

Any person reading his papers would have great difficulty in refuting the conclusions he draws from the data contained within the international research papers. He ably points out how the conclusions of the 2004 NIST report are not supported by the data contained within the report. Sadly the conclusions of the NIST report were relied upon by Fire Brigades world wide in the misguided promotion of ionization smoke alarms.

The Australian Standards Fire Protection Committee FP 002 found Joseph Fleming's research an invaluable resource in ultimately substantiating its own research into the Australian Standards acceptance criteria for ionization smoke alarms. Much of Joseph Fleming's research became a resource for the Australian Fire Brigades, The Victorian University of Technology, The Australasian Fire Authorities Council and others.

Those who are ignorant of the facts, or who may have commercial interests say that Joseph Fleming's campaign is extreme and his opinions of little value. He must be recognised for his work, because he has collated and presented us with irrefutable evidence (some of which has been in the public domain for 30 years); he has forced us to acknowledge and act on three decades of misinformation that has ultimately cost the lives of thousands of men women and children world wide.

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36 years industry experience