

**City
of
Milwaukee**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
200 E. Wells Street RM B-4, Milwaukee, WI 53203**

*******INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM*******

Date: August 22, 2006
To: Barry Zalben, LRB Manager
From: Emma J Stamps, Legislative Fiscal Analyst-Lead, ext. 8666
Re: Tamper-proof Smoke Detector Survey

On behalf of the Fire Chief, an ordinance was drafted requiring residential structures to install lithium powered, tamper proof smoke detectors in areas mandated by fire code. Fire services across the country have been successful in local governments adopting ordinances, such as Grand Rapids MI and the State of California.

There are two types of smoke detecting technology: ionization and photoelectric; you need both. Ionization sensing units are best for detecting fast flaming fires such as a grease fire in the kitchen or paper burning in a waste container. Photoelectric sensing units are better for detecting slow smoky fires that smolder for hours before bursting into flame, such as that caused by a cigarette burning in a couch or bed. A few hybrid models include both technologies and others allow for interconnectivity whereas all interconnected alarms sound when one sounds

Either batteries or power cells, depending on the manufacturer and model, provide the lithium power source that is sealed inside the unit making it tamper proof. Power cells cannot transfer to other electronics or toys. The maximum expected life is 10 years. Most limited warrants focus on the unit versus the battery and power cells.

Michigan and California fire services have endorsed the following models:

- BRK 4010 YR
- First Alert SA10YRCN
- FIREX 4671
- KIDDE 0910

You requested a price comparison for these smoke detectors. An Internet search using the Yahoo Shopping search engine lists online prices ranging \$20.35 to \$34.99. The individual specification sheets are attached for reference.

Cc: Marianne Walsh

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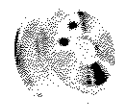

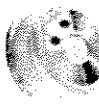

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<p>Tamper Proof 10 Year Lithium Smoke Alarm</p>  <p>\$28.50</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Fire Safety & Home Safety: Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Safety Tips</p>	<p>FireX 4671 (TPCI) Smoke Alarm TAMPER-PROOF Lithium...</p>  <p>\$20.35</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from galesburgelectric.com</p>	<p>BRK 4010YR Smoke Alarm Detector, 10 Year Battery Life...</p>  <p>\$30.50</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Electrical Supplies 4 Less.com</p>	<p>BRK 4010YR Smoke Alarm Detector, 10 Year Battery Life...</p>  <p>\$29.90</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from BeverlyHillsElectric.Com</p>
<p>BRK Ionization Sensors smoke Alarm Model 4010 YR</p>  <p>\$27.90</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from ElectricSuppliesOnline.com</p>	<p>First Alert Smoke Alarm Outlet Mail</p>  <p>\$32.95</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Improvementscatalog</p>		

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Product Information

<p>Description</p> <p>Sealed-In Lithium Battery - Sealed-in lithium power supply; no battery replacement required over the 10 year life of the...</p>	<p>4671 Sealed enclosure - The lithium batteries are permanently soldered into place preventing battery removal. 2-Way...</p>	<p>...Cells Silence Feature Battery Power Indicator End-of-Service-Life Alert Ionization Sensor Battery Activation Alert Tab...</p>	<p>...Cells Silence Feature Battery Power Indicator End-of-Service-Life Alert Ionization Sensor Battery Activation Alert Tab...</p>
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Tamper Proof 10 Year Lithium Smoke Detector

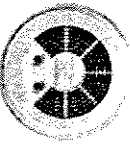


\$29.50

BUY IT

from Fire Safety & Home Safety: Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Safety Tips

BRK BRANDS/FIRST ALERT #SA10YRCN 10 Year Smoke ...

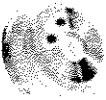


\$34.99

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\$28.50

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Photoelectric Smoke Detector - Battery Operated - (As LOW...



\$23.25

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Product Information

Description

Sealed alarm to prevent tampering
Battery automatically energized when alarm installed
Alarm-Pause button Ionization...

First Alert, 10 Year Lithium Power Smoke Detector, Continuous Operation For 10 Years With No Battery To...

...complexes (meets most public housing requirements. Feature Ionization Sensor Sealed-In, 10-year Lithium Power Cells...

...confident its always on guard. 10-year smoke detector has extra-long-life, non-removable lithium-power cells...

Sealed-In Lithium Battery - Sealed-In lithium power supply, no battery replacement required over the 10 year life of the...

...batteries included) Test Button Photoelectric Sensor Flashing LED Power On Indicator Low Battery Indicator Piercing 85 dB...

<p>Tamper Proof 10 Year Lithium Smoke Detector</p> <p>\$29.50</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Fire Safety & Home Safety: Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Safety Tips [Remove]</p>	<p>BRK BRANDS/FIRST ALERT #SA10YRCN 10 Year Smoke ...</p> <p>\$34.99</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Amazon.com [Remove]</p>	<p>BRK Ionization Sensors smoke Alarm Model 4010 YR</p> <p>\$27.90</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from ElectricSuppliesOnline.com [Remove]</p>	<p>First Alert Smoke Alarm Outlet Mail</p> <p>\$32.95</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Improvementscatalog [Remove]</p>	<p>Tamper Proof 10 Year Lithium Smoke Alarm</p> <p>\$28.50</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Fire Safety & Home Safety: Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Safety Tips [Remove]</p>	<p>Photoelectric Smoke Detector - Battery Operated - (As Low...</p> <p>\$23.25</p> <p>Buy It</p> <p>from Fire Safety & Home Safety: Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, Fire Safety Tips [Remove]</p>
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