

**UNIVERSAL®**

MODEL SS-375/SS-376  
**EXTENDED LIFE BATTERY  
SMOKE & FIRE ALARM  
with Silence Control**

### READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

The smoke alarm has a recommended service life of at least 10 years under normal conditions. The smoke alarm uses an extremely small amount of a radioactive element in the ionization chamber. Do not tamper with radioactive sealed source or try to repair the smoke alarm yourself. Refer to instructions for repairs.

#### SMOKE ALARM LIMITATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

- THERE ARE TWO BASIC SMOKE ALARM TYPES - IONIZATION AND PHOTOELECTRIC. Ionization smoke alarms are your best overall choice for reliability and fast response time, since they quickly sense small "invisible" smoke particles and will also sense larger "visible" smoke particles. Photoelectric smoke alarms may respond more quickly in certain types of fires, for example - slow smoldering fires with large "visible" smoke particles. ALL TYPES OF SMOKE ALARMS HAVE LIMITATIONS. NO TYPE OF SMOKE ALARM CAN SENSE EVERY KIND OF FIRE OR SMOKE EVERY TIME.
- WARNING - SMOKE ALARMS WILL NOT WORK DURING A LOSS OF POWER. SINCE A SMOKE ALARM WILL NOT WORK WITHOUT POWER, having an alarm(s) that works from two completely different power sources, such as an AC direct wire with battery backup smoke alarm, can give you an extra measure of protection in case of an AC power failure or a dead battery.
- USING A SMOKE ALARM IN A SMOKY AREA LIKE A KITCHEN, OR IN A HIGH HUMIDITY AREA NEAR A SHOWER, CAN CAUSE FALSE ALARMS. DO NOT TURN OFF THE AC POWER TO QUIET THE ALARM. A SMOKE ALARM WILL NOT HELP PROTECT YOU IF IT IS NOT POWERED. Properly locate your alarm to avoid nuisance alarms.
- A SMOKE ALARM MAY NOT ALWAYS WARN YOU ABOUT FIRES CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS AND SAFETY HAZARDS LIKE SMOKING IN BED, VIOLENT EXPLOSIONS, ESCAPING GAS, IMPROPER STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE MATERIALS, OVERLOADED ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS, CHILDREN PLAYING WITH MATCHES, NATURAL CAUSES SUCH AS LIGHTNING, OR ARSON. FIRE PREVENTION IS YOUR BEST SAFEGUARD.
- INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS MAY MAKE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR LOWER INSURANCE RATES, but SMOKE ALARMS ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR INSURANCE. Homeowners and renters alike should continue to insure their lives and properties.
- SMOKE ALARMS CANNOT WORK WITHOUT POWER. Battery operated units cannot work if the batteries are missing, disconnected or dead, if the wrong type of batteries are used or if the batteries are not installed correctly. AC (only) powered units cannot work if the AC power is cut off for any reason. If you are concerned about the limitations of battery or AC power, install both types of units.
- SMOKE ALARMS CANNOT DETECT FIRES IF THE SMOKE DOES NOT REACH THEM. Smoke from fires may not reach the sensing chamber and set off the alarm. One unit should be installed inside each bedroom or sleeping area.
- SMOKE ALARMS MAY NOT DETECT FIRE ON ANOTHER FLOOR OR AREA OF THE HOME. Recommended minimum protection is at least one unit in every sleeping area and every bedroom on every level of your home. Interconnected units may provide earlier warning than stand-alone units since all units alarm when one detects smoke.
- SMOKE ALARMS MAY NOT BE HEARD. The alarm horn in this unit meets or exceeds current standards, but it may not be heard if: (1) the unit is located outside a closed or partially closed door; (2) residents recently consumed alcohol or drugs; (3) the alarm is drowned out by noise from stereos, TV's, air conditioners or other appliances or (4) if residents are hearing impaired or sound sleepers.
- SMOKE ALARMS ARE NOT FOOLPROOF. You must test the unit weekly to ensure your continued protection. Smoke alarms cannot prevent or extinguish fires.
- SMOKE ALARMS HAVE A LIMITED LIFE. The unit should be replaced immediately if it is not operating properly. You should always replace a smoke alarm after 10 years.
- SMOKE ALARMS ARE NOT TO BE USED WITH DETECTOR GUARDS UNLESS THE COMBINATION HAS BEEN EVALUATED AND FOUND SUITABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE.
- CURRENT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN SMOKE ALARMS MAY NOT AWAKEN ALL SLEEPING INDIVIDUALS AND THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE HOUSEHOLD WHO ARE CAPABLE OF ASSISTING OTHERS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE AWAKENED BY THE ALARM SOUND OR TO THOSE WHO MAY BE INCAPABLE OF SAFELY EVACUATING THE AREA UNASSISTED.

## RECOMMENDED LOCATION OF ALARMS

- Locate the first smoke alarm in the immediate area of the bedrooms. Try to protect the escape route as the bedrooms are usually farthest from an exit. If more than one sleeping area exists, locate additional smoke alarms in each sleeping area. If a hall is more than 40 feet (12 meters) long, install a smoke alarm at each end.
- Locate additional smoke alarms to protect any stairway as stairways act like chimneys for smoke and heat.
- Locate at least one smoke alarm on every floor level.
- Locate a smoke alarm in any area where a smoker sleeps or where electrical appliances are operated in sleeping areas.
- Smoke, heat and other combustion products rise to the ceiling and spread horizontally. Mounting the smoke alarm on the ceiling in the center of the room places it closest to all points in the room. Ceiling mounting is preferred in ordinary residential construction. However, in mobile homes, wall mounting on an inside partition is preferred to avoid the thermal barrier that may form at the ceiling.
- When mounting smoke alarm on the ceiling, locate it a minimum of 4" (10cm) from a side wall or corner (see Diagram A).
- When mounting smoke alarm on a wall, if local codes allow, use an inside wall with the top edge of the smoke alarm a minimum of 4" (10cm) and a maximum of 12" (30.5cm) below the ceiling/wall intersections (See Diagram A).

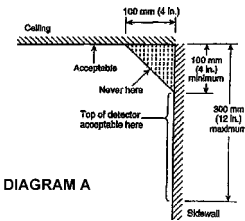
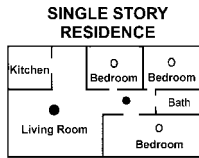
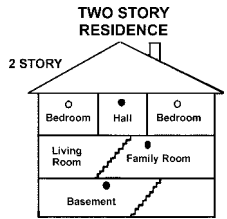


DIAGRAM A



- Smoke Alarms for Minimum Protection
- Recommended Smoke Alarms for Additional Protection

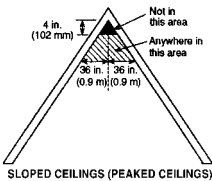


### Existing Homes:

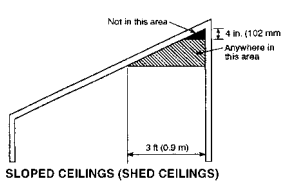
The NFPA requires a smoke alarm on every level and outside each sleeping area in existing construction. An existing household with one level and one sleeping area is required to have one smoke alarm.

### New Construction Homes and Manufactured Homes:

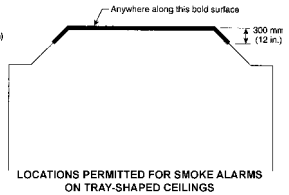
The NFPA requires AC-powered, interconnected smoke alarms to be installed inside each bedroom, outside each bedroom area, and on every level of the home. They also require a minimum of two AC-powered, interconnected smoke alarms in any new construction home.



SLOPED CEILINGS (PEAKED CEILINGS)



SLOPED CEILINGS (SHED CEILINGS)



LOCATIONS PERMITTED FOR SMOKE ALARMS ON TRAY-SHAPED CEILINGS

### Sloped Ceilings (Peaked Ceilings):

Smoke alarms or smoke detectors mounted on a peaked ceiling shall be located within 36 in. (914 mm) horizontally of the peak, but not closer than 4 in. (102 mm) vertically to the peak.

### Sloped Ceilings (Shed Ceilings):

Smoke alarms or smoke detectors mounted on a sloped ceiling having a rise greater than 1 ft. in 8 ft. (1 m in 8 m) horizontally shall be located within 36 in. (914 mm) of the high side of the ceiling, but not closer than 4 in. (102 mm) from the adjoining wall surface.

### Tray-Shaped Ceilings:

Smoke Alarms or smoke detectors shall be installed on the highest portion of the ceiling or on the sloped portion of the ceiling within 12 in. (305 mm) vertically down from the highest point.

### Mobile Home Installation:

For minimum protection, smoke alarms should be installed in compliance with H.U.D. Manufactured Home Construction Safety Standards, Title 24 CFR, Section 3280.208 and Section 3282. For additional protection, see Single Story Residence smoke alarm requirements/recommendations for Existing Homes and New Construction Homes.

Note: For mobile homes built before 1978, install smoke alarms on inside walls between 4" and 12" from the ceiling (older mobile homes have little or no insulation in the ceiling). This is especially important if the ceiling is unusually hot or cold.

Install a smoke alarm inside each bedroom and in the hallway outside each separate sleeping area.

## AVOID THESE LOCATIONS

- the garage – products of combustion are present when you start your automobile.
- near appliances or areas where normal combustion regularly occurs (kitchens, near furnaces, gas hot water heaters). Use smoke alarms with Silence Control for these areas.
- in areas with high humidity, like bathrooms or areas near dishwashers or washing machines. Install at least 3 feet (0.9 meters) away from these areas.
- in areas of turbulent air such as air returns or heating and cooling supply vents, smoke alarms shall not be located where airflow prevents operation of the alarms.
- in extremely dusty, dirty or insect-infested areas. Loose particles interfere with smoke alarm operation.
- in areas where temperature may fall below 40°F (4.4°C) or rise above 100°F (37.8°C).
- closer than 1 foot (0.3m) from fluorescent lights, electrical "noise" and flickering may affect the alarm's operation.
- closer than 3 feet (0.9m) horizontal path from the tip of the blade of a ceiling suspended (paddle) fan.
- on a poorly insulated ceiling or exterior wall (mount smoke alarm on an inside wall).

**THIS SMOKE ALARM WILL NOT OPERATE WITHOUT A BATTERY INSTALLED. PROPER BATTERY MUST BE INSTALLED IMMEDIATELY WHEN LOW BATTERY SIGNAL IS GIVEN OR THE UNIT WILL FAIL. TEST WEEKLY. READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS OR UNIT WILL NOT OPERATE PROPERLY.**

## FALSE ALARMS (SEE "SILENCE" CONTROL)

The smoke alarm is designed to minimize false alarms. Smoking will not normally set off the alarm unless smoke is blown directly into the smoke alarm. Combustion particles from cooking may set off the alarm if the smoke alarm is located close to the kitchen cooking surface. Large quantities of combustion particles are generated from spills or broiling.

If the smoke alarm does alarm, check for fires first. If a fire is discovered, get out and call the fire department. If no fire is present, check to see if one of the reasons listed above may have caused the alarm. Use the "silence" feature if it is a false alarm.

## INSTALLATION

Your smoke alarm is designed for easy mounting on wall or ceiling. A complete mounting kit is included with the smoke alarm. First, attach the mounting bracket on the wall or ceiling with the screws provided. Second, push and turn the smoke alarm clockwise on the mounting bracket. (Note: Your smoke alarm is equipped with a safety device which prevents mounting unless a battery is installed. If your smoke alarm will not lock into the mounting bracket, check to make sure a battery is installed.)

### **CAUTION!**

*Early warning fire detection is best achieved by the installation of fire detection equipment in all rooms and areas of the household as follows: A smoke alarm installed in each separate sleeping area (in the vicinity of, but outside of, the bedrooms) and heat or smoke alarms in living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, hallways, attics, furnace rooms, closets, utility storage rooms, basements and attached garages. Test the smoke alarm weekly to assure proper operation.*

## OPERATION, TESTING & MAINTENANCE

**OPERATION:** The smoke alarm is operating once the battery is connected. When products of combustion are sensed, the unit sounds a loud alarm which continues until the air is cleared.

This alarm incorporates the internationally recognized horn signal for evacuation. During alarm mode, the horn produces three short beeps followed by a two second pause and then repeats.

**FALSE ALARMS "SILENCE" CONTROL:** Units with the "silence" feature have the capability of temporarily reducing the sensitivity of the alarm circuit for approximately 8 minutes. This feature is to be used only when a known alarm condition such as smoke from cooking activates the smoke alarm. The smoke alarm is deactivated by pushing the test button on the smoke alarm cover for at least three seconds. The smoke alarm will automatically reduce sensitivity and "beep" every 30-40 seconds for approximately 8 minutes to indicate the alarm is in the temporary silent condition. The smoke alarm will gradually reactivate during the 8 minutes and sound the alarm if particles of combustion are still present. The "silence" feature may be used repeatedly until the air has cleared.

**CAUTION: Before using the alarm "silence" feature, identify the source of smoke and be certain that safe conditions exist.**

**STANDBY CONDITION:** The red LED flashes once every 40-60 seconds to indicate the unit is properly functioning.

**LOCAL ALARM CONDITION:** The red LED flashes rapidly and the unit emits a loud, pulsating alarm sound.

**TESTING:** Test by pushing the test button on the smoke alarm cover until the alarm sounds, then release. The alarm sounds if all electronic circuitry, horn and battery are working. The alarm may continue to sound for up to 10 seconds after the button is released. If no alarm sounds, the unit may have a defective battery or other failure. Test the smoke alarm weekly to assure proper operation.

### **⚠WARNING!**

***NEVER use an open flame of any kind to test this unit. You might accidentally damage or set fire to the unit or to your home. The built-in test switch accurately tests the unit's operation as required by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL).***

### **⚠CAUTION!**

***If you choose to use an aerosol smoke product to test the smoke alarm, be certain to use one that has been Listed to Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Safety Standards and use it only as directed. Use of non-UL Listed products or improper use of UL Listed products may affect the smoke alarm's sensitivity.***

#### **RV INSTALLATION -**

**WARNING:** TEST SMOKE ALARM OPERATION AFTER VEHICLE HAS BEEN IN STORAGE, BEFORE EACH TRIP, AND AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK DURING USE. An identical marking is to be provided by the recreational vehicle manufacturer that shall be permanent and located, visibly, within 24 inches (610mm) of the smoke alarm.

**MAINTENANCE:** The smoke alarm is virtually maintenance free. However, under dusty conditions, a vacuum hose may be used to clear the sensing chamber of dust.

## BATTERY REPLACEMENT

The smoke alarm uses a 9 Volt carbon-zinc battery. The battery should last for at least one year under normal operating conditions. The smoke alarm has a low battery indicator, an audible "beep." It will operate at 30-40 second intervals for a minimum of 7 days. When this indication occurs, replace the battery with an Alkaline type (Eveready Energizer #522, Duracell #MN1604), Carbon-Zinc type (Gold Peak #1604P, Eveready #216).

## REPAIRS AND SERVICES

The smoke alarm contains less than 1 microcurie (37 kilobecquerel) of Americium 241, a radioactive material. **The distribution of these ionization-type smoke alarms is licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the consumer is exempt from any licensing or requirements.** If the smoke alarm is defective in any way, do not tamper with the unit. Return the unit for servicing. (See warranty for instructions or in-warranty returns.) There will be a service charge for repairing out of warranty units.

## DEVELOP AND PRACTICE A PLAN OF ESCAPE

### BASICS OF ESCAPE PLAN

- o Make a floor plan indicating all doors and windows and at least two escape routes from each room. Second story windows may need a rope or chain ladder.
- o Have a family meeting and discuss your escape plan, showing everyone what to do in case of fire.
- o Determine a place outside your home where all of you can meet if a fire occurs.
- o Familiarize everyone with the sound of the smoke alarm and train them to leave your home when they hear the sound.
- o Identify children's bedrooms with red stickers placed in the upper left corner of the windows. They are available from your local fire department.
- o Practice a fire drill at least every six months. Practice allows you to test your plan before an emergency. You may not be able to reach your children. It is important they know what to do!

### WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS

- o Leave immediately by your plan of escape. Every second counts, so don't waste time getting dressed or picking up valuables.
- o In leaving, don't open any inside door without first feeling its surface. If hot, or if you see smoke seeping through cracks, **don't open that door!** Instead, use your alternate exit. If inside door is cool, place your shoulder against it, open it slightly and be ready to slam it shut if heat and smoke rush in.
- o Stay close to the floor if air is smoky. Breathe shallowly through a cloth, wet if possible.
- o Once outside, go to your selected meeting place and make sure everyone is there.
- o Call the fire department from your neighbor's home – **not from yours!**
- o Don't return to your home until fire officials say that it is all right to do so.

### NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION REQUIRED PROTECTION

For your information, the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 72, reads as follows:

"2-2.1.1.1 Smoke detectors shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on each additional story of the family living unit including basements and excluding crawl spaces and unfinished attics. In new construction, a smoke detector shall be installed in each sleeping room."

"A-2.5.2.1 Smoke Detection - Are More Smoke Detectors Desirable? The required number of smoke detectors might not provide reliable early warning protection for those areas separated by a door from the areas protected by the required smoke detectors. For this reason, it is recommended that the householder consider the use of additional smoke detectors for those areas for increased protection. The additional areas include the basement, bedrooms, dining room, furnace room, utility room, and hallways not protected by the required smoke detectors. The installation of smoke detectors in kitchens, attics (finished or unfinished), or garages is not normally recommended, as these locations occasionally experience conditions that can result in improper operation."

The equipment should be installed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 72. (National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269).

**THIS PRODUCT MEETS ALL THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF UL STANDARD FOR SAFETY, UL217 5TH ED.**

## UNIVERSAL FIVE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY\*

**Universal Security Instruments, Inc. ("Universal") warrants your Universal product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase.** This warranty applies only to the original consumer purchaser and only to products used in normal residential use and service. If this product is found to be defective, Universal's only obligation, and your exclusive remedy, is the repair or replacement of the product, at Universal's discretion, provided that the product has not been damaged through misuse, abuse, accident, modifications, alteration, neglect or mishandling. This Warranty shall not apply to any product which is found to have been improperly installed, set-up, or used in any way not in accordance with the instructions supplied with the product.

Improper handling and/or installation of the battery voids the warranty. Improper handling and/or installation includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Reversing the battery's polarity or connecting the battery's "+" and "-" terminals incorrectly.
- B. Short circuiting the battery.
- C. Attempting to charge the battery.
- D. Subjecting the battery to excessive humidity, hot or cold conditions.
- E. Altering the battery physically in any way.

### **ALKALINE 9 VOLT BATTERY RETURNS:**

To return alkaline battery under warranty, send battery ONLY along with a note describing nature of difficulty and proof of date of purchase, postage prepaid and return postage to:

UNIVERSAL SECURITY INSTRUMENTS, INC.  
11407 CRONHILL DRIVE, SUITE A  
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

### **SMOKE ALARM RETURNS:**

To return smoke alarms under warranty, send the smoke alarm ONLY (DO NOT SEND BATTERY) postage prepaid with a payment of \$3.50 to cover the costs of return postage and handling. Include proof of date of purchase and send to:

UNIVERSAL SECURITY INSTRUMENTS, INC.  
11407 CRONHILL DRIVE, SUITE A  
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

**UNIVERSAL DOES NOT WARRANT AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OTHER THAN THE WARRANTY CONTAINED HEREIN. NO IMPLIED WARRANTY ON THIS PRODUCT, CREATED BY STATE LAW, SHALL EXTEND BEYOND THE TERM OF THIS WARRANTY UNLESS SUCH LAW OTHERWISE PROVIDES. UNIVERSAL SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY LIABILITY AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL OR INCIDENTAL LOSS OR DAMAGE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DAMAGES TO ANY EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH THIS PRODUCT IS USED.**

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

No agent, representative, dealer, or employee of the company has the authority to increase or alter the obligations or terms of this Warranty.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

This Warranty is only valid for merchandise purchased from outlets in the United States and Canada.

\*DISCLAIMER: WARRANTY IS NOT A PERFORMANCE CLAIM.

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