

Life Safety Alarms - You and Your Dealership

By: Tom Wisniewski

On September 18, 2011, five people died from Carbon Monoxide poisoning in a rental RV. The five rented the vehicle on the 16th to attend a bike rally charity event in Clarksville, Tennessee. The following evening, they ran a generator outside the RV to power the air conditioning. Reports say it appears a small storage hatch on the vehicle did not properly close, allowing fumes from the generator to seep inside the RV killing the five people inside. This tragedy resulted in a new Tennessee law regarding leased or rented RV's, putting more legal responsibility on the RV lessor. Tennessee Code Annotated 55-9-218 reads:

a) A recreational vehicle that is leased or rented must have in such vehicle a carbon monoxide detector in proper working order. All leases or rental agreements for a recreational vehicle shall contain language that the carbon monoxide detector in such recreational vehicle was tested, is in proper working order, and that a demonstration of the use of such equipment was performed for the lessee of the recreational vehicle. All leases or rental agreements for recreational vehicles shall contain the following statement, an acknowledgement of which shall be initialed or signed by the lessor and lessee of such vehicle:

I CERTIFY THAT AT THE TIME OF THE RENTAL/LEASE OF THIS VEHICLE THAT IT IS EQUIPPED WITH A WORKING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR.

(b) An action for civil damages in a court of competent jurisdiction may be brought against any lessor found violating this section, and damages sustained as a consequence of the lessor's violations may be recovered, together with all costs and attorneys' fees.

It is good practice to install and maintain properly working safety alarms as part of your RV rental operation. Functioning safety alarms can reduce the chances of gas leak or Carbon Monoxide accidents in your rental vehicles and may help you negotiate better insurance rates for your fleet. Check your rental fleet for any expired CO alarms or LP Gas alarms. The useful service life of Safe-T-Alert safety alarms is five years.

Consider installing 12 volt hardwired CO alarms in your rental fleet instead of battery-operated

alarms. Hardwired alarms are less likely to be disabled by renters. The disabling of these units from a reliable 12 volt battery supply usually requires cutting of a wire. If you select battery-operated alarms be aware that renters can potentially remove the batteries making the device inoperable.

In addition to checking your rental fleet for missing or expired safety alarms, be sure to check any used vehicles for sale at your dealership. Additionally, have your technicians

inspect the replace by dates on the LP Gas detectors and Carbon Monoxide alarms in each RV that comes into your dealership. MTI Industries, Inc (manufacturer of Safe-T-Alert™ brand of alarms) recommends adding "Check alarm date codes" to your routine maintenance checklist so this important step is not overlooked. By spending a few minutes checking date codes, you will keep your customers safer on the road and may help limit your company's liability while increasing sales in your service department.



CARBON MONOXIDE & PROPANE ALARM REPLACEMENT NOTICE

Subject: All Safe-T-Alert Propane and Carbon Monoxide Alarms that are 5 years old and older are beyond their Mandatory Replacement Time and MUST be replaced.

Background: Underwriters' Laboratories (UL®) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA®) have determined that all Carbon Monoxide and Propane alarms have a limited life. UL® Carbon Monoxide Standard UL 2034 and CSA Carbon Monoxide Standard 119.2 and UL 1484 Propane Standard all require that all Carbon Monoxide alarms and Propane alarms be designed to stop service when their operational life has been reached.

IMPORANT ALL Safe-T-Alert Propane and Carbon Monoxide alarms which are over five (5) years old **MUST** be replaced!

Important! Only install CO and Propane alarms that are UL or CSA listed for Recreational Vehicle Use.

Service Recommendations: _____

I have read this notice and understand that I should install a new Carbon Monoxide Alarm and/or Propane Alarm because one or both are over 5 years old, did not test properly or I do not have one or both installed in my RV. I was informed of the needed service by the Service Technician named below and I waive the recommendation to install such equipment in my vehicle and hold the Dealership below, the persons informing me and MTI harmless of any liability now and in the future for any injury or loss of life resulting from my failure to authorize the installation of new alarms.

RV Make, Model Year and VIN Number _____

Service Company Name _____

RV Owner Print Name _____

Service Technician Print Name _____

Signature Date _____

Signature Date _____

Address _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code _____

City State Zip Code _____

**MTI Copy: Mail To: MTI Industries, Inc.
31632 N. Ellis DR. #301 Volo, IL. 60073**

Dealer Copy

Customer Copy

Form No. MPR 01/07/209

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Train your service writer's to inspect the Carbon Monoxide and Propane Alarms for their operation and age on all RV's that are in for repair or maintenance. Make sure that they use the form above if the owner refuses to change out broken or out of date alarms and keep a copy for your records. Additional forms are available from your Stag sales representative.