



Excelsior Fire District

Fire & Life Safety

False Alarms In Duel Detectors

False Alarms in Duel Carbon Monoxide and Explosive Gas Meter Alarms

There have been reports of false alarms from fire departments responding to duel alarms emergency calls. The problem appears to be with the sensor in the gas meter. More people are buying them for their homes and therefore the frequency of false alarms is increasing.

Most false alarms seem to be occurring in Nighthawk and Kidde alarms. This can happen in units as soon as they are installed and as they get older.

The sensors are very sensitive to aerosols, perfumes, and other airborne particles. The sensors, like any sensor in any type of detector can get coated, especially with paint, hairspray, deodorant, or any of these types of aerosols. Once the sensor is coated or compromised it will continue to trigger false alarms and will not work properly. The alarms may not be able to detect gas or carbon monoxide once the sensor becomes defective.

A digital read out in some models of 222 indicate a low battery or the sensor has come in contact with an aerosol.

Until the false alarm issues are resolved in these types of detectors consumers may want to consider purchasing separate gas meters and CO alarms even though it is more costly. Consumers may want to return or responsibly dispose of the one they have and buy separate units with a digital read outs. Most retail stores or manufacturers will exchange the unit, give refunds for returns, issue an in store credit, or give out a coupon.

