

Smoke Detector

In the photo, Fire Chief Jay Stout of Safety Harbor, Florida, is explaining to young Richard Davis the workings of the Honeywell smoke and fire detector which probably saved Richard's life and that of his teen-age brother. Alerted by the detector's warning, the pair were able to escape their burning home. The detector in the Davis home was one of 1,500 installed in Safety Harbor residences in a cooperative program conducted by the city and Honeywell Inc.

Marketed commercially by Honeywell Consumer Products, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the detector incorporates technology developed by Honeywell Inc. for a sophisticated smoke and fire detection system used in NASA's Skylab, a long-duration orbital laboratory which was active in the mid-seventies.

The Honeywell AC/Battery Backup Smoke and Fire Detector normally operates on home electrical current, but it also has a continuously self-recharging nickel-cadmium battery which automatically takes over if home power fails. An ionization chamber senses incipient combustion and actuates an alarm horn which emits a loud, piercing warning signal. The unit has a sensitivity switch which permits the homeowner to fine-tune the detector, in order to avoid nuisance alarms such as those triggered by cooking. A special feature is a do-it-yourself testing system that allows the user to make sure all elements of the detector are working properly simply by pushing a button.

