

## **SOUTHAMPTON CONDOMINIUM SMOKE ALARMS ARE OUT OF DATE**

Last week, my carbon monoxide alarm went off. I finally discovered the cause; it had gone past its useful life. While searching for the source of the alarm, I also checked my builder installed smoke alarms. If your unit is over ten years old like mine, your alarm has a least a 30% chance of **NOT WORKING**. Check the date on the back of the alarm and see if you are at or past the ten year expiration date. You probably are. The failure rate for smoke alarms is 3% for each year past the manufacture date. That makes a unit manufactured in 2000 has a 33% chance of failure. This was not acceptable to me. See the date on mine in the photo below.

**NOTE:** View a YouTube video on smoke alarm failure rates at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ask4JvqU3Qc&NR=1>



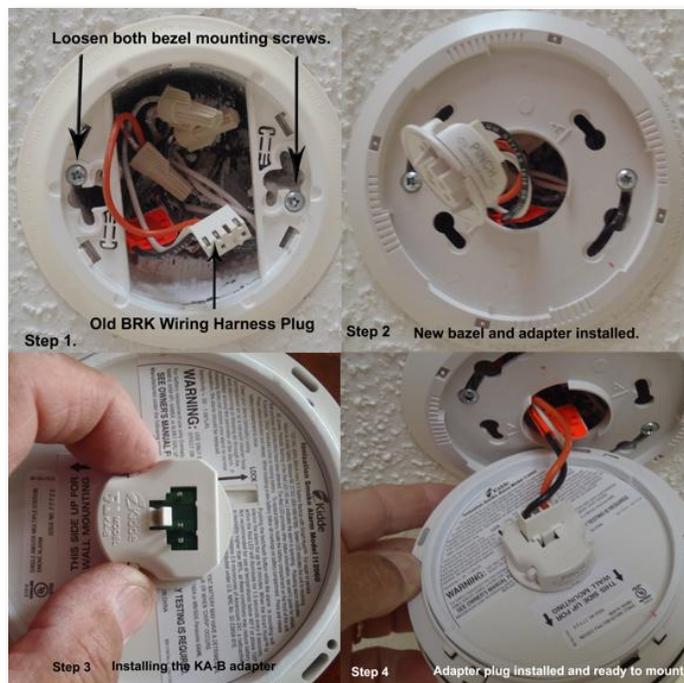
Here is a quote from the BRK Electronics 4120B owners manual:

**"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 from date of purchase. Write the purchase date on the space provided on back of unit."** I think it should read "...after 10 years from manufacture date printed on the back of the unit". When you test a unit, it only means it has power and the battery is good, NOT that it will actually work.

The complete manual can be read/downloaded from here: <http://www.brkelectronics.com/pdfs/2008/10/13/1f5f9591.pdf>

After reading reviews on several brands of smoke alarms, I decided to replace the BRK's with Kidde i12060 Hardwire Front Load Battery Backup Smoke Alarms. They received good reviews, and you can also purchase an adapter so the Kidde alarm will fit into the BRK wiring harness. There is no need to do any wiring or even shut off a breaker to do the installation.

**NOTE:** Some Kidde units have the plug adapter included with the unit. If it's included, it will be shown on the box. If not, they can be purchased separately as I did. Make sure you get the "KA-B Quick Convert Adapter"



1. First, remove the old unit and unplug the wire harness. Loosen the two bezel mounting screws enough to rotate the ring and remove it.

2. Install the new bezel and tighten the mounting screws. Plug the wiring harness into the adapter. **DO THIS FIRST.** It's a tight fit.

3. Pinch the tabs on the plug adapter and snap it into the Kidde detector.

4. Mount the new alarm in the bezel.

To purchase all five of my smoke alarms on line was about a \$100.00. They may also be available locally but I never looked.

**NOTE:** You can also view a YouTube video on How to install Kidde !12060 smoke alarms.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeQ3BsXAWp8>