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Only Working Smoke Alarms Can Save Lives

On the 10-year anniversary of smoke alarm legislation in Australia, Quell reminds consumers about fire safety

SYDNEY, May 1 2016 – In recognition of the tenth anniversary of smoke alarm legislation requiring each building in which individuals sleep must possess a [minimum of one smoke alarm](#), Quell is urging Australians to check their smoke alarms. Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) recommends residents replace smoke alarms every 10 years, which means alarms installed to ensure compliance with 2006 requirements may now need replacement. Quell, a registered trademark of Chubb Fire & Security Pty Ltd, a part [of UTC Climate, Controls & Security](#), a unit of United Technologies Corp. (NYSE: UTX), has over 100 years of fire safety experience in Australia.

“We know Australians care about fire safety but if they don’t regularly check their fire alarms they could be at risk,” said David Laundry, national consumer manager, Quell. “We highly recommend that every household be armed with functioning fire alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blankets to ensure they are well prepared. We also recommend implementing a fire escape plan that identifies the quickest and safest way out of the residence.”

According to [FRNSW data](#), 56 percent of fatal house fires between 2000 and 2014 occurred in homes where no smoke alarms were present. FRNSW also estimates that only 75 percent of houses have a working smoke alarm. The



sensitivity of smoke alarms decreases over time and most types of alarms need to be replaced every 10 years, even if the test button says the alarm is functioning correctly.

“An outdated or faulty smoke alarm may just be as dangerous as having no smoke alarm at all. Being unprotected from the possibility of a fire can double the chance of serious injury or death, which is a risk Quell hopes no family has to face,” Laundry concludes.

To know when your smoke alarm was manufactured, look for a batch number, which is typically printed near the battery compartment. A batch number of 2406 indicates that the product was manufactured in the 24th week of 2006. Quell alarms have a date of manufacture printed clearly on the base, while some manufacturers now place the expiry date on the smoke alarm.

To find out more about fire safety, please visit www.quell.com.au.

About Quell

Quell is a consumer brand of Chubb, one of the most respected names in fire and safety equipment boasting over 100 years' experience in Australia. Quell produces a comprehensive range of user friendly and competitively priced smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire blankets and home and personal safety products that set the benchmark for fire prevention, detection and protection. Quell is a registered trademark of Chubb Fire & Security Pty Ltd, a part of UTC Climate, Controls & Security, a unit of United Technologies Corp., a leading provider to the aerospace and building systems industries worldwide.