

We have three battery operated smoke alarms of the same brand in our house. After several years of regularly replacing the batteries, the smoke alarms had become unreliable. After several attempts to solve the problem, I finally looked closely at the various labels on one smoke alarm.

The problem was that the smoke alarms had passed their use-by date. I was not aware of the fact that certain smoke alarms themselves have a use-by date. It would be useful during the annual campaign reminding people to replace the batteries in smoke alarms, to also remind them to check the use-by date of the alarm itself. Replacing the batteries only may give people a false sense of security, as they may not realise that certain smoke alarms have a limited operating life.

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