Visonic CO Detector Prevents Tragedy After Home Heater Malfunctions

The Alon family escaped a smoke-filled house thanks to their Visonic carbon monoxide detector.

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When smoke filled the Alon family home on a recent winter night it was the loud beeping of the Visonic carbon monoxide (CO) detector that saved the sleeping family. Installed above a kerosene heater, the detector was activated when the heater malfunctioned - averting a potential tragedy.

Ami Alon is painfully aware of how close his family came to disaster. He was not home at the time; and his wife, Mari, and two children, aged three and five years, were sleeping. By the time Mari woke up and escaped the house with the children, the house was filled with deadly smoke. He says: “I don’t want to think about what might have happened if we hadn’t installed the CO detector.”

Here’s the story in his words...

“My wife had gone to bed particularly tired and at first she didn’t hear the beeps of the CO detector, installed next to our children’s room. Our son woke up and called my wife but she was sleeping very deeply and didn’t hear him, and soon after that he apparently fell back asleep. Then, as the beeping grew stronger, Mari woke up and suddenly realized it was the CO detector. It was only then that she understood what was happening. The house was full of smoke and it was difficult to breathe. Mari immediately grabbed the children, ran out of the house, and phoned me. I arrived five minutes later and found that the house was full of smoke. I opened all the windows and doors and shut down the fuel system. Still, it took three hours for the smoke to go away.”

The Visonic CO detector had been installed at the Alon house about six months before that night. As a standalone detector, it sounded an alert when carbon monoxide levels rose above a certain level. The volume of the beeping continually increased as the amount of CO increased and became more dangerous. If the detector had been connected to a Visonic security system, with connectivity to a monitoring service, the detector would also have activated an alert to the monitoring center and to Ami’s mobile phone.

Right from the start, Ami was very happy with the Visonic detector. “The first thing I noticed about the CO detector, and the smoke detector that I installed after the incident, was the easy installation procedure. I like the simple design and it blends in with the wall without being noticed.”

The Visonic CO detector was the only security device I had ever used,” recalls Ami. “My friend who works at Visonic urged me to install one, so I did. I’m so grateful to him. And, I cannot thank Visonic enough because thanks to their detector, this story has a happy ending.”