

## WEEKLY TESTING

### WARNING!

- NEVER use an open flame of any kind to test this unit. You might accidentally damage or fire the unit.**
- The built-in test switch accurately tests the unit's operation as required by CSA 6.19. NEVER use vehicle exhaust! Exhaust may cause permanent damage and void your warranty!**
- DO NOT stand close to the Alarm when the horn is sounding. Exposure at close range may be harmful to your hearing. When testing, step away when horn starts sounding.**

### CAUTION!

It is important to test this unit every week to make sure it is working properly. You can test this Gas/CO Alarm two ways:

- Manually:** Press the Test/Silence button on the Alarm cover until alarm sounds.

- Remote Control:** Aim your remote control at the Alarm and press the CHANNEL or VOLUME button.

During testing, you will hear a chirp to your home. The 1 beep every 2 seconds, while the Red LED flashes and the display shows "GAS". Then you will hear a loud, repeating horn pattern: 4 beeps, pause, 4 beeps, pause, while the Red LED flashes and the display shows "CO" with an increasing CO ppm number.



### If the Alarm does not test properly:

- Make sure the AC power is applied and battery is fresh and installed correctly.
- Test the unit again.
- If the Alarm is still not working properly, replace it immediately. Refer to the "Limited Warranty" at the end of this manual.

### WARNING!

If there is still a problem, do not try to fix the Alarm yourself. This will void your warranty!

## REGULAR MAINTENANCE

### WARNING!

Use only the replacement batteries listed below. The unit may not operate properly on other batteries. Never use rechargeable batteries since they do not provide a constant charge.

This unit has been designed to be as maintenance-free as possible, but there are a few simple things you must do to keep it working properly:

- Test it at least once a week.
- Clean the Alarm at least once a month; gently vacuum the outside of the Alarm using your household vacuum's soft brush attachment. Test the unit. Never use water, cleaners or solvents since they may damage the unit.
- Relocate the unit if it sounds frequent unwanted alarms. See "Where This Alarm Should Not Be Installed" for details.
- When the battery back-up becomes weak, the Alarm will "chirp" about once a minute (the low battery warning). You should replace the battery immediately to continue your protection. **This Alarm must have AC or battery power to operate. If AC power fails, and the battery is dead or missing, the Alarm cannot operate.**

### WARNING!

DO NOT spray cleaning chemicals or insect sprays directly on or near the Alarm. DO NOT paint over the Alarm. Doing so may permanently damage the Alarm.

### CHOOSING A REPLACEMENT BATTERY:

Your Alarm requires one standard 9V alkaline battery. The following batteries are acceptable as replacements: Duracell® #MN1604, (Ultra® #MX1604; Energizer® #E92. You may also use a Lithium battery like the Ultralife U9V-LJ for longer service life between battery changes. These batteries are available at many local retail stores.

### IMPORTANT!

Actual battery service life depends on the Alarm and the environment in which it is used. Simple things like the battery specified above are acceptable replacement batteries for this unit. Regardless of the manufacturer's suggested battery life, you MUST replace the battery immediately once the unit starts "chirping" (the low battery warning). For any device employing a battery, constant exposure to high or low temperatures or high humidity may reduce battery life.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CO

### WHAT IS CO?

CO is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas produced when fossil fuels do not burn completely, or are exposed to heat (usually fire). Electrical appliances typically do not produce CO.

These fuels include: Wood, coal, charcoal, oil, natural gas, gasoline, kerosene, and propane.

Common appliances are often sources of CO. If they are not properly maintained, are improperly ventilated, or malfunction, CO levels can rise. CO is a real danger now that homes are more energy efficient. "Air-tight" homes with added insulation, sealed windows, and other weatherproofing can "trap" CO inside.

## SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING

These symptoms are related to CO POISONING and should be discussed with ALL household members.

**Mild Exposure:** Slight headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue ("flu-like" symptoms).  
**Medium Exposure:** Throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion, fast heart rate.  
**Extreme Exposure:** Convulsions, unconsciousness, heart and lung failure. Exposure to Carbon Monoxide can cause brain damage, death.

### IMPORTANT!

This Gas/CO Alarm measures exposure to CO over time. It alarms if CO levels are extremely high in a short period of time, or if CO levels reach a certain minimum over a long period of time. The Gas/CO Alarm generally sounds an alarm before the onset of symptoms in average, healthy adults. Why is this an important? Because you need to be warned of a potential CO problem while you can still react in time. In many reported cases of CO exposure, victims may be aware that they are not feeling well, but become disoriented and can no longer react well enough to exit the building or get help. Also, young children and pets may be the first affected. The average healthy adult might not feel any symptoms when the Gas/CO Alarm sounds. However, people with certain respiratory problems, infants, newborn babies, pregnant women, or elderly people can be more quickly and severely affected by CO. If you experience even mild symptoms of CO poisoning, consult your doctor immediately!

## FINDING THE SOURCE OF CO AFTER AN ALARM

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, invisible gas, which often makes it difficult to locate the source of CO after an alarm. There are a few of the factors that can make it difficult to locate sources of CO:

- House well ventilated before the investigator arrives.
- Problem caused by "backdrafting".
- Transient CO problem caused by special circumstances.

Because CO may dissipate by the time an investigator arrives, it may be difficult to locate the source of CO. BRK Brands, Inc. shall not be obligated to pay for any carbon monoxide investigation or service call.

## POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CO IN THE HOME

Fire-burning appliances like: portable heater, gas or wood burning fireplace, gas kitchen range or cooktop, gas clothes dryer.

Damaged or insufficient venting; corroded or disconnected water heater vent pipe, leaking chimney pipe or flue, or cracked heat exchanger; blocked or clogged chimney opening.

Improper use of appliance/device: operating a barbecue grill or vehicle in an enclosed area (like a garage or screened porch).

Transient CO Problems. "transient" or on-again-off-again CO problems can be caused by outdoor conditions and other special circumstances.

The following conditions can result in transient CO situations:

- Excessive spillage or reverse venting of fuel appliances caused by outdoor conditions such as:
  - Wind direction and/or velocity, including high, gusty winds. Heavy air in the vent pipes (cold/humid air with extended periods between cycles).
  - Negative pressure differential resulting from the use of exhaust fans.
  - Several appliances running at the same time competing for limited fresh air.
- Vent pipe connections vibrating loose from clothes dryers, furnaces, or water heaters.
- Obstructions in or unconventional vent pipe designs which can amplify the above situations.
- Extended operation of unvented fuel burning devices (range, oven, fireplace).
- Temperature inversions, which can trap exhaust close to the ground.
- Car idling in an open or closed attached garage, or near a home.

These conditions are dangerous because they can trap exhaust in your home. Since these conditions can come and go, they are also hard to recreate during a CO investigation.

## GENERAL LIMITATIONS OF EXPLOSIVE GAS/CO ALARMS

### WARNING!

This product is intended for use in ordinary indoor residential areas. It is not designed to measure compliance with commercial and industrial standards. This device is not intended to alert hearing impaired residents.

**Gas/CO Alarms may not waken all individuals.** If children or others do not readily wake to the sound of the Gas/CO Alarm, or if there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the event of an emergency.

**Gas/CO Alarm will not sense gas or CO that does not reach the sensors.** It will only sense gas or CO at the sensor. Gas or CO may be present in other areas. Doors or other obstructions may affect the rate at which CO or gas reaches the sensors.

**Gas/CO Alarms may not be heard.** The alarm horn loudness meets or exceeds current standards of 85 dB at 3 meters (10 feet). However, if the Gas/CO Alarm is installed outside the bedroom, it may not wake up a sound sleeper or one who has recently used drugs or has been drinking alcoholic beverages. This is especially true if the door is closed or only partly open. Even persons who are awake may not hear the alarm horn if the sound is blocked by distance or closed doors. Noise from traffic, stereo, radio, television, air conditioners, or other appliances may also prevent alert persons from hearing the alarm horn. This Gas/CO Alarm is not intended for people who are hearing impaired.

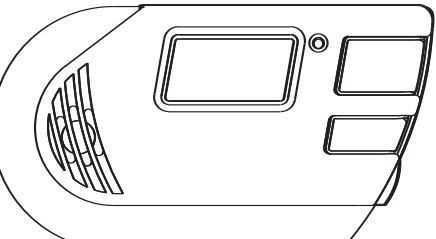
**This Gas/CO Alarm is not a substitute for life insurance.** Though this Gas/CO Alarm warns against increasing CO levels or the presence of gas, BRK Brands, Inc. does not warrant or imply in any way that they will protect lives. Homeowners and renters must still insure their lives.

**This Gas/CO Alarm is not foolproof.** Like all other electronic devices, this Gas/CO Alarm has limitations. It can only detect gas or CO that reaches the sensors. It may not give early warning of the source of gas or CO in a remote part of the home, away from the alarm device.

**This Gas/CO Alarm has a limited life.** Although this Gas/CO Alarm and all of its parts have passed many stringent tests and are designed to be as reliable as possible, any of these parts could fail at any time. Therefore, you must test this device weekly. The unit should be replaced immediately if it is not operating properly.

## First Alert USER'S MANUAL

### PLUG-IN EXPLOSIVE GAS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM WITH BATTERY BACK-UP AND SILENCE FEATURE



120VAC ~ 60Hz, 0.20 A

### IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SAVE.

This unit was shipped with a user's manual that contains important information about its operation. If you are installing this unit for use by others, you must leave this manual—or a copy of it—with the end user.

Printed in Mexico M08-0175-000 Q 03/07 CSA 6.19 UL 1484 Model GC01A

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## BASIC SAFETY INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT!

Dangers, Warnings, and Cautions alert you to important operating instructions or potentially hazardous situations. Pay special attention to these items.

### CAUTION!

This combination Explosive Gas/Carbon Monoxide Alarm has two separate sensors. The CO Alarm is not designed to detect fire or any other gas. It will only indicate the presence of carbon monoxide gas at the sensor. Carbon monoxide gas may be present in other areas. The Explosive Gas Alarm will only indicate the presence of explosive gas that reaches the sensor. The Explosive Gas Alarm is not designed to sense smoke, heat or flames.

Do not stand too close to the unit when the alarm is sounding. It is loud to wake you in an emergency. Exposure to the horn at close range may harm your hearing.

Do not paint over the unit. Paint may block the openings to the sensing chambers and prevent the unit from operating properly.

### WARNING!

- This unit must be powered by a 24-hour circuit. Be sure the circuit connected to your home's propane, dimmer, or ground fault circuit interrupter. Failure to connect this unit to a 24-hour circuit may prevent it from providing constant protection.
- This Alarm must have AC or battery power to operate. If AC power fails and the battery is dead or missing, the alarm cannot operate.
- The Alarm will check for the presence of explosive gas at the sensor less frequently when powered by the back-up battery. Explosive gas could be present during the period between checks without going into alarm, especially during a condition that results in a rapid buildup of explosive gas.
- Test the Alarm once a week. If the Alarm ever fails to test correctly, have it replaced immediately! If the Alarm is not working properly, it cannot alert you to a problem.
- This combination Carbon Monoxide and Explosive Gas Alarm is intended for residential use and is not suitable for use in hazardous locations as defined in the National Electrical Code.
- This device is designed to protect individuals from the acute effects of carbon monoxide exposure. It will not fully safeguard adults with specific medical conditions. If in doubt consult a medical practitioner.

## INSTALLATION

### WHERE TO INSTALL THIS ALARM

For Gas Alarms, mounting depends on the type of explosive gas you intend to detect.

**Natural gas (methane)** is typically supplied through a main utility line connected to your home. Propane is typically used by homes in areas that do not have natural gas service. Since propane is the most commonly used Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), propane and LP-Gas are often used synonymously. Unlike natural gas, propane is heavier than air and will collect at lower levels. If you are a user of propane, the Alarm should be mounted near the floor (using the direct plug-in feature) to ensure the earliest opportunity to detect a leak.

**Propane** is typically supplied to homes by delivery truck in liquid form and stored near the home in propane tanks. Propane is used by homes in areas that do not have natural gas service. Since propane is the most commonly used Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), propane and LP-Gas are often used synonymously. Unlike natural gas, propane is heavier than air and will collect at lower levels. If you are a user of propane, the Alarm should be mounted near the floor (using the direct plug-in feature) to ensure the earliest opportunity to detect a leak.

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Both propane and natural gas are colorless and odorless. For safety reasons, an odorant (Mercaptan) is added so that any leak can be detected by smell. The common detection threshold for smelling the gases is around 20% of the Lower Explosion Limit (LEL). This can vary greatly depending on the individuals sense of smell and how long they have been exposed to it. The LEL of each of these gases defines the bottom range of flammability for the gas. Your Alarm is calibrated to sound before 25% of the LEL of either gas detected.

**Therefore, it is possible that you may smell gas before the Alarm is activated. If you are not sure which gas your home uses, contact your utility company.**

For CO Alarms, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that a CO Alarm should be centrally located outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. For added protection, install additional CO Alarms in each separate bedroom, and on every level of your home.

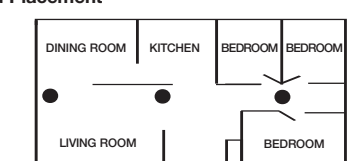
### In general, install combination Explosive Gas and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Where you can hear the alarm from all sleeping areas.
- In or near bedrooms and living areas or wherever you suspect a gas or CO exposure is likely.
- On each level of a multi-level home.

### IMPORTANT!

Improper location can affect the sensitive electronic components in this Alarm. Please see "Where This Alarm Should Not Be Installed".

### Recommended Placement



Continued...

### Installation Continued

See "Avoiding Dead Air Spaces" for more information.

**NOTE:** For any location, make sure no door or other obstruction could keep carbon monoxide or gas from reaching the Alarm.

### WARNING!

This unit should receive continuous electrical power. (The battery is meant for emergency back-up only). Choose an outlet where it can't be accidentally unplugged or switched off by children. Keep small children away from the unit. Teach them not to play with it or unplug it. Explain what the alarms mean.

### WHERE THIS ALARM SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED

To avoid causing damage to the unit, to provide optimum protection, and to prevent unnecessary alarms, DO NOT locate this Alarm:

- In garages, kitchens, crawl spaces and unfinished attics. Avoid extremely dusty, dirty or greasy areas. Installation in these areas could lead to nuisance alarms, may expose the sensor to substances that could damage or contaminate it, or the Alarm may not be heard by persons in other areas of the home, especially if they are sleeping.
- In the garage, vehicle exhaust can contain some carbon monoxide. These levels are higher when the engine is first started. Within hours of starting a vehicle and backing it out of the garage, the levels present over time can activate the Alarm and become a nuisance.
- In the kitchen, some gas appliances can emit a short burst of CO or gas upon start-up. This is normal. If your Explosive Gas/CO Alarm is installed too close to these appliances, it may alarm often and become a nuisance.
- Keep units at least 6 meters (20 feet) from the sources of combustion particles (stove, furnace, water heater, space heater) if possible. In areas where a 6 meter (20-foot) distance is not possible—in modular, mobile, or smaller homes, for example—it is recommended the Alarm be placed as far from these fuel-burning sources as possible. The placement recommendations are intended to keep these Alarms at a reasonable distance from a fuel-burning source, and thus reduce "unwanted" alarms. Unwanted alarms can occur if an Alarm is placed too close to a fuel-burning source. Ventilate these areas as much as possible. If you must install the Alarm near a cooking or heating appliance, install at least 1.5 meters (5 feet) from appliance.
- In extremely humid areas. This Alarm should be at least 3 meters (10 feet) from a shower, sauna, humidifier, vaporizer, dishwasher, laundry room, utility room, or other source of high humidity.
- In direct sunlight.
- In turbulent air, like near ceiling fans or open windows. Blowing air may prevent CO or gas from reaching the sensors.
- In areas where temperature is colder than 4°C (40° F) or hotter than 38°C (100° F). These areas include non-air-conditioned crawl spaces, unfinished attics, uninsulated or poorly insulated ceilings, porches, and garages.
- Less than 305 mm (12 inches) away from fluorescent lights. Electrical "noise" can interfere with the sensor.
- In "dead air" spaces. See "Avoiding Dead Air Spaces".

### AVOIDING DEAD AIR SPACES

"Dead air" spaces may prevent gas from reaching the Alarm. To avoid dead air spaces, follow installation recommendations below.

On ceilings, install Alarms as close to the center of the ceiling as possible. If this is not possible, install the Alarm at least 102 mm (4 inches) from the wall or corner.

For wall mounting, the top edge of Alarms should be placed between 152 mm (6 inches) and 305 mm (12 inches) from the wall/ceiling line.

On a peaked, gabled, or cathedral ceiling, install Alarm within 0.9 meters (3 feet) of the peak of the ceiling, measured horizontally.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION

Since CO generally mixes well with air, mounting the Alarm will depend on the type of explosive gas you intend to detect. If you are not certain which type of gas you are using in your home, please read about natural gas and propane in "Where to Install this Alarm".

### WARNING!

- Make sure the alarm is not receiving excessively noisy power. Examples of noisy power could be major appliances on the same circuit, power from a generator or solar power, light dimmer on the same circuit or mounted near fluorescent lighting. Excessively noisy power may cause damage to the Alarm.
- Find the part of self-adhesive labels included with this Gas/CO Alarm.
- On each label write in the phone number of your emergency responder (like 911) and a qualified appliance technician.
- Place one label near the Gas/CO Alarm, and the other label in the "fresh air" location you plan to go if the alarm sounds.

### HOW TO INSTALL THIS GAS/CO ALARM

**IMPORTANT!** Read all instructions before using this product. Tools you will need: Screwdriver, drill.

- Determine the best location for your Gas/CO Alarm.
- Your Alarm is equipped to be mounted as a coded unit (recommended for natural gas detection), a direct plug unit (recommended for propane gas detection). The unit can be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If your outlets are mounted horizontally, refer to "Directly into Mounted Horizontally (Sideways)".

If the adapter is taken out of the unit, the Alarm can be installed high on the wall, while the adapter is plugged into a wall outlet. The explosive gas could be present during the period between checks without going into alarm, especially during a condition that results in a rapid buildup of explosive gas.

**IMPORTANT!** Activate the battery back-up by installing the battery. The battery is for back-up only and is not intended to power the Alarm for an extended period of time in the absence of AC.

The Alarm will light-up the display briefly to indicate the unit is receiving power.

### DIRECT PLUG ALARM INTO AN OUTLET (For Propane Detection)

### IMPORTANT!

The Alarm should be plugged directly into an outlet located close to the floor. This is the recommended configuration for detecting propane.

- Choose a standard UNSWITCHED 120V AC outlet.
- Plug Alarm in.

### IF OUTLET IS MOUNTED HORIZONTALLY (SIDEWAYS)

If you are going to use your Alarm as a direct plug into an outlet that is mounted horizontally (sideways), you may want to rotate the adapter 90°, as follows:

- With back of unit facing you (AC blades on your left), place your left thumb on adapter release and grab AC blades with your right hand to release the left side.
- Repeat for the other side adapter thumb release. This will allow adapter to slide out.
- Remove adapter.
- Rotate the adapter 90° and snap firmly back into place.
- Plug Alarm into AC outlet.

### WALL MOUNTED ALARM (for Natural Gas Detection)

### IMPORTANT!

**Installation tips for power cord models:** The power cord option provides more flexibility in mounting locations and allows the Alarm to be easily installed at or above eye level.

**NOTE:** If you mount the Alarm high on a wall, make sure it is between 152-305 mm (6 to 12 inches) down from the ceiling. Any higher than this, it will be in "dead air" space and carbon monoxide or natural gas may not reach the sensors.

**NOTE:** Do not cover the Alarm with a curtain.

To install for a wall-mount, you will need to pull out the removable adapter and power cord, as follows:

- Repeat steps 1 to 3 as described above in "to rotate the adapter".
- With adapter out, pull out power cord and unwrap it.
- Insert the screws provided until head is approx. 3 mm (1/8 inch) from wall (if mounting in plaster board or in plaster board with a 3/16 inch hole an use plastic anchor provided). Leave the 2 mounting holes 98 mm (3 7/8 inches) apart on center horizontally.
- Hook the Alarm over the screw onto the keyhole in back of unit.
- Plug power cord into AC outlet.

### SECURING THE POWER CORD TO AN OUTLET

### WARNING!

**DISCONNECT POWER TO THE OUTLET TO AVOID ELECTRICAL SHOCK.**

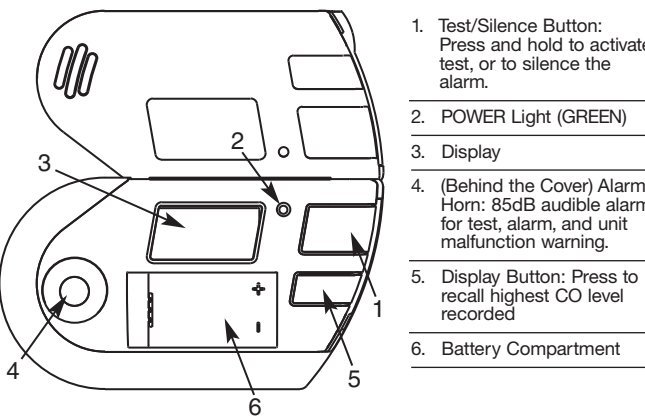
- Remove the wallplate screw from the outlet and hold the wallplate in position.
- Plug the power cord into the wall outlet so that the screw hole lines up with the wallplate screw hole.
- Insert the screw through the power cord screw hole and into the wallplate screw hole.
- Tighten screw in place and restore power to the outlet.

## TEST THE ALARM

- Make sure the Alarm is receiving AC power. Under normal operation, the Green indicator light will chirp continuously. If the Green power indicator light does not light, recheck connections. If connections are correct and the Green power indicator still does not light, the unit should be replaced immediately.
- Press and hold the test button until the alarm sounds. You will hear the signal that indicates the presence of explosive gas followed by the signal for carbon monoxide.

When testing the Alarm, have someone else check that the Alarm can be heard easily from the sleeping areas. The unit should be located where it can wake you if it alarms at night.

## HOW TO USE THE REMOTE CONTROL THE COVER OF YOUR ALARM



### IF YOUR GAS/CO ALARM SOUNDS

### WHAT TO DO IF CARBON MONOXIDE IS DETECTED

- Immediately move to fresh air—outdoors or by an open door or window. Check that all persons are accounted for. Do not reenter the premises, or move away from the open door or window until the emergency services responders have arrived, the premises have been aired out, and your Alarm remains in its normal condition.
- Call your emergency local service (telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ fire department or 911).
- If "service" signal sounds (3 quick "chirps" every 60 seconds), the unit has detected a malfunction; see "Troubleshooting Guide" for details.

### WHAT TO DO IF EXPLOSIVE GAS IS DETECTED

- Leave the house immediately, opening doors and windows as you leave.
- Do not use your telephone or appliances. Do not turn any light switches off or on. Any spark or flame could ignite the gas.
- Call 911 and your gas company from a phone that is away from your home.
- Do not re-enter the area until the source of the leak is found and corrected.

### IF YOU HEAR THE ALARM HORN SOUND ONE BEEP PER SECOND, GAS HAS BEEN DETECTED. THE WORD GAS WILL BE DISPLAYED. EVACUATE EVERYONE FROM THE BUILDING.

- Leave the house immediately, opening doors and windows as you leave.
- Do not use your telephone or appliances. Do not turn any light switches off or on. Any spark or flame could ignite the gas.
- Call 911 and your gas company from a phone that is away from your home.
- Do not re-enter the area until the source of the leak is found and corrected.

### WARNING!

- If the alarms and you are not testing the unit, it is warning you of a potentially dangerous situation that requires your immediate attention. NEVER ignore any alarm. Ignoring the alarm may result in injury or death.
- Never disconnect the power to quiet an unwanted alarm. Disconnecting the power disables the Alarm. This will remove your protection.

### WARNING!

Alarms have various limitations. See "General Limitations of Gas/CO Alarms" for details.

## USING THE SILENCE FEATURE

### WARNING!

NEVER disconnect the power to your Alarm to silence the horn—use the Silence Feature. Disconnecting the Alarm removes your protection!

- The Silence Feature is intended to temporarily silence the horn while you identify and correct the problem.
- To use the Silence Feature, press the Test/Silence button until the horn is silent.</