

What's Causing That Annoying (and Repeating) "Chirping" Sound Inside the RV??

By Dale Lee Sumner, www.sumdalus.com, Copyright © 2023

Besides providing power for the lights in the RV, the battery bank also provides power for a critical safety device – The LP alarm! This alarm is hard-wired (directly connected) to the "house" battery 100% of the time. There is no "ON/OFF" switch for this alarm! [Comment: A Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm is rarely hardwired to the battery. CO and Smoke/Fire alarms are usually powered by replaceable dry cell (flashlight type) batteries.]

You should ensure you know what your actual LP alarm sounds like by pressing the test button as the manufacturer prescribes – optimally once a week. "Once a week!?" Oh, you think that's a lot? It isn't a lot when you recognize the purpose of the alarm is to save your life. Consider that you are probably asleep for more hours than awake while in your RV. And I guarantee it's no fun to wake up dead because the alarm didn't function properly when an LP gas leak occurred. So, TEST IT! Protect yourself and your loved ones.

Now then, back to the "chirping" – The LP alarm, secondarily, functions as a low-battery alarm. When the battery voltage is too low to power the LP alarm adequately, the alarm uses the last bit of available battery power to inform you about the "low" power condition. Usually, at about 10.5 volts of battery power, it "chirps" (about once a minute) repeatedly to get your attention.

[**Comment:** Most LP, CO, and Smoke alarm manufacturers recommend replacing the alarms every five (5) years. The alarm's sensing device desensitizes ("wears out") over time. How old are your alarms?

Important: Only install LP, CO, and/or Smoke alarms that are UL-listed for Recreational Vehicle Use. The alarms you can typically get at the local hardware store probably aren't!!]

I hope this helps,

Dale