

Lifetone™ HLAC150 Bedside Fire Alarm and Clock, Frequently Asked Questions

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PRODUCT FEATURES

- Is the daily wake-up alarm on the HLAC150 different from the fire alarm?
 - Yes. The two types of alarms sound different, feel different, and look different.
 - Audible alerts: In a fire emergency, the HLAC150 uses the Temporal-3 (T-3) pattern recommended by ANSI and the NFPA: repeated groups of three half-second beeps with a 1½-second pause between groups (see COMPATIBILITY: What does a T-3 signal sound like?). A voiced announcement (“Fire! Get out!”) is sounded in the pauses between groups. The wake-up alarm, on the other hand, is a rapid series of ungrouped beeps, about three per second. In both cases, the HLAC150 beeps at 520 Hz, a frequency that is lower than that of a typical smoke alarm. This lower frequency is better at awakening people, especially persons who are medicated or have age-related hearing loss.
 - Tactile alerts: If you use the included bed shaker, the audible alerts are accompanied by pulsed vibration (1½ seconds on, 2½ seconds off) during a fire alarm but continuous vibration during a wake-up alarm.
 - Visual alerts: The LCD screen flashes **FIRE** in an emergency but flashes the time of day during a wake-up alarm.
- How long will the emergency alarm sound if no one is there to turn it off?
 - If you don’t press the red TEST/SILENCE button, the emergency alarm will stop after 10 minutes. If the triggering smoke alarm is still sounding, the HLAC150 will detect the continuing alarm within 15 seconds and resume its own emergency alerts.
- How long will the wake-up alarm sound if no one is there to turn it off?
 - The wake-up alarm sounds for 10 minutes or until the OFF button or the SNOOZE bar is pressed.
- How long is the snooze time?
 - 10 minutes.
- Is snooze time limited?
 - No; you can have as many 10-minute snooze sessions as you like. The bell icon (🔔) flashes to indicate that the snooze function is active.
- How loud is the daily wake-up alarm?
 - A switch on the top of the HLAC150 allows you to select a high volume (85 dBA at 3 feet) or a lower volume (75 dBA at 3 feet) for the wake-up alarm. However, the emergency alarm *always* sounds at full power (the louder level).

- Can the brightness of the screen be adjusted?
 - Yes. The SNOOZE/LIGHT switch on the top of the HLAC150 allows you to set the backlight level to **bright**, **dim**, or **off** for normal operation. Each time you press the bar, the brightness changes. However, the screen will always flash at the brightest setting while the alarm is sounding. (You cannot change the screen brightness while the HLAC150 is sounding any alarm.) Note: When the HLAC150 is operating on battery backup, the screen is dark. Pressing the SNOOZE/LIGHT switch makes the screen light up for five seconds.

INITIAL SET-UP

- How do I set up my HLAC150?
 - The set-up process involves applying power, performing the power-up self test and the smoke-alarm compatibility test, and setting the clock and the wake-up alarm. Here are the steps:
 1. Place the Lifetone HLAC150 near your bed, with the speaker facing your pillow. Install the batteries and be sure that the display screen comes on and flashes **TEST**. If the screen remains dark, remove and re-install the batteries, being careful to insert them in the orientation indicated by the molded markings inside the battery compartment.
 2. Plug the HLAC150 into an electrical outlet that is not controlled by a light switch.
 3. Press the red TEST/SILENCE button on the back of the HLAC150. **TEST** will stop flashing for about 20 seconds while the HLAC150 tests its speaker and microphone. You may hear the clock making noises during this test.
 4. **TEST** will start flashing again. At this point, the HLAC150 needs to hear your smoke detector. If you have an interconnected alarm system, locate the nearest smoke detector; otherwise, locate the farthest detector that you want the HLAC150 to listen for. Activate the test switch on your smoke detector. You have 10 minutes to do this. After two complete, uninterrupted T-3 cycles (each T-3 cycle consists of three beeps and a pause), the HLAC150 will sound its own low-frequency T-3 signal, flash **FIRE** on the screen, and vibrate the bed shaker.
 5. Press the red TEST/SILENCE button to silence the HLAC150.
 6. Set the clock and the wake-up alarm (see SETTING THE CLOCK and SETTING THE WAKE-UP ALARM).
- During set-up, how long will the HLAC150 wait to hear a T-3 signal?
 - If the HLAC150 does not hear a T-3 signal within 10 minutes, it will flash all segments of the LCD screen (**88:88** for the time, for example) and beep once every 5 seconds. If this happens, you need to unplug the unit, remove one of the batteries, and start the set-up procedure again.

- Why do I need to use a particular smoke detector when I set up the HLAC150?
 - During set-up, the HLAC150 adjusts its sensitivity to the loudness of your smoke alarm. If the HLAC150 hears a loud alarm during set-up, it might not recognize a softer or more distant alarm in an emergency. On the other hand, if you use a very quiet or distant alarm during set-up, the HLAC150 will be very sensitive and may respond to a neighbor's smoke alarm. Note: If you have an interconnected alarm system, use the *nearest* smoke alarm to set up your HLAC150. This helps prevent the HLAC150 from being confused by alarms that may not be synchronized with the nearest.

SETTING THE CLOCK

- How do I set the clock on my HLAC150?
 - The HLAC150 will automatically prompt you to set the clock after the initial power-on and compatibility tests. To set the clock any other time, press and hold SET CLOCK until **12hr** appears on the screen. The HLAC150 will flash, in turn, each item that needs to be set. Use the plus (+) and minus (-) buttons to adjust the setting, then press SET CLOCK to proceed to the next item. You can press the plus and minus buttons repeatedly to advance one digit at a time; or you can hold the button down to advance rapidly until you release it. Items are set in the following order:
 1. 12-hour (am/pm) or 24-hour (military) time
 2. Hour (If you're using 12-hour time, be sure that **AM** or **PM** is correctly indicated at the left of the display screen. The starting hour is 12 pm.)
 3. Minute
 4. Year
 5. Date Style (**M D** = month first; **D M** = day first)
 6. Month
 7. Day
 8. Language (**E** for English, **F** for French, **S** for Spanish)

If you are doing the initial set-up, the HLAC150 will next prompt you to set the wake-up time, which is 6 a.m. by default (see SETTING THE WAKE-UP ALARM). If you don't want to use the wake-up alarm, be sure to turn it off by pressing the ON/OFF button once, and make sure that the bell icon (🔔) disappears from the lower left of the screen.

- What happens if I don't set the clock or if I get interrupted during the process?
 - If during the process of setting the clock you go for one minute without pressing any button, the clock will end the set-up and use whatever date and time is on the screen. If it's not correct, press and hold SET CLOCK until you see **12hr** flashing, and go through the process again.


- Can I make my HLAC150 display the year after set-up is complete?
 - Yes. By default, the HLAC150 displays a two-character abbreviation for the day of the week in your choice of English, French, or Spanish. You can alternate between the year and the day of the week by quickly pressing and releasing SET CLOCK.

SETTING THE WAKE-UP ALARM


- How do I set the wake-up time on my HLAC150?
 - The HLAC150 will automatically prompt you to set the wake-up time after the initial power-on tests and clock setting. To change the wake-up setting at any other time, press and hold SET ALARM until the wake-up hour flashes in the lower left corner of the screen. Use the plus (+) and minus (-) buttons to adjust the wake-up hour. You can press the plus and minus buttons repeatedly to advance one digit at a time; or you can hold the button down to advance rapidly until you release it. If you're using 12-hour time, be sure that **AM** or **PM** is correctly indicated to the left of the wake-up hour. Then press SET ALARM to advance to the wake-up minute. Use the plus (+) and minus (-) buttons to adjust the wake-up minutes, then press SET ALARM one final time.
- How do I know whether the wake-up alarm is set?
 - Look for the bell icon (🔔) in the lower left of the screen. You can toggle the alarm on and off by pressing the ON/OFF button on the top of the HLAC150.
- How do I silence the wake-up alarm?
 - Press the ON/OFF button once, or press the SNOOZE bar. Note: Don't use the red TEST/SILENCE button to stop the wake-up alarm. That will start a self test that might be mistaken for a fire alarm, and the wake-up alerts will start again after the self test is completed, about 20 seconds later.

BED SHAKER

- Where is the best place to put the bed shaker?
 - Depending on personal preference, you may put the bed shaker under your pillow or under the mattress. Some people find that the vibration is felt most intensely when the bed shaker is placed under the mattress and beneath the sleeper's chest or shoulders. Lifetone does not recommend placing the bed shaker between two very soft, thick mattresses because the transmitted vibrations may become damped over time if the bed shaker vibration makes a "nest" in the cushiony material. If this happens, move the bed shaker a few inches. The "nest" it made in the padding will fill back in.

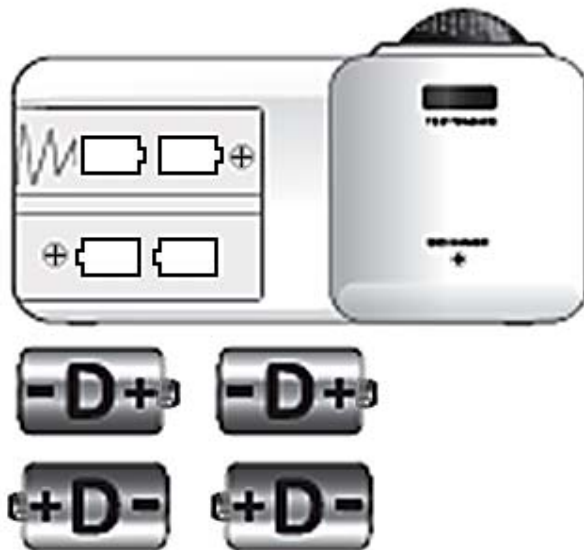
- I don't want to use the bed shaker. Can I unplug it?
 - Yes. However, when you unplug the bed shaker, the HLAC150 will alert you by flashing **beds** and chirping every five seconds. To stop these alerts, press and hold the red TEST/SILENCE button until you see **TEST** on the screen. The HLAC150 will then perform a self-test during which it will retrain itself to operate without the bed shaker. This takes about 30 seconds, after which the HLAC150 will return to normal operation, this time without the bed shaker.
- I set up my HLAC150 without a bed shaker. Can I start using the bed shaker later?
 - Yes; just plug it in at any time. The HLAC150 will automatically detect the bed shaker, whose presence will be indicated by the bed-shaker icon () on the left side of the screen.
- How do I clean the bed shaker?
 - Wipe it with a damp, soapy cloth, but do not immerse the bed shaker in any liquid.

BATTERIES

- How long will the batteries last?
 - The HLAC150 is intended to be plugged in to an AC outlet for normal operation. The backup batteries are good for seven days of operation during a power outage, after which the low-battery alerts will begin. It's a good idea to keep a spare set of four D-cell batteries on hand.
- Do I need to buy special batteries for the HLAC150?
 - No. Any standard alkaline D cells will work. Don't use rechargeable batteries in the HLAC150.
- How do I know when it's time to change the batteries?
 - When the batteries are low, the HLAC150 will flash **BATT** on the screen, chirp once a minute, and vibrate the bed shaker once a minute. In addition, the battery icon () on the screen will flash.
- Can I change the batteries without unplugging the HLAC150?
 - Yes; in fact, that's the preferred method. If you do unplug the HLAC150 and remove the batteries, you will have to go through the initial set-up again. Don't unplug the HLAC150 without batteries in unless you have to—for example, if you need to repeat the compatibility test.

- How should I orient the batteries when I insert them?

- Refer to the figure at right. With the HLAC150 face down in your lap and the battery compartment on your left, remove the battery cover by pressing on it and sliding it to your left. Remove any batteries already present, and you will see a faint diagram that shows the correct orientation of the batteries. There are four D-cell batteries. The two that are farther from you are the ones that would



be uppermost if the clock were sitting right-side-up on a table. Insert the two farther batteries so that their positive end—that’s the top or “button” end of the battery—points to the right. Insert the two nearer batteries with the opposite polarity, that is, with their positive ends pointing to the left. In other words, the negative end—that’s the flat bottom of the battery—always goes toward the coiled spring. Note: the spring for the two nearer (bottom) batteries is partially hidden inside the housing.

- How do I know if the batteries are correctly installed?

- If during the initial set-up you insert the batteries before plugging the HLAC150 in to an electrical outlet, the screen will briefly display all segments and then will start flashing TEST. You should then plug in the AC adaptor. If the screen doesn’t come on without the unit being plugged in, then the batteries were not inserted correctly. If you insert batteries while the HLAC150 is plugged in, you will get a low-battery indication if they aren’t oriented correctly.

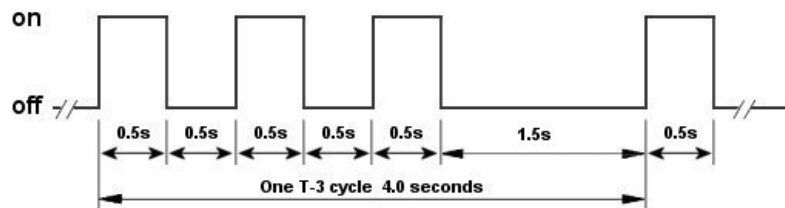
- I had a power outage, and the batteries in my HLAC150 ran down. I unplugged it to stop the low-battery alerts. Do I have to set up the HLAC150 again?

- Yes. Any time you remove all power (both batteries and AC), you have to repeat the set-up procedure, including the detector compatibility test (see INITIAL SET-UP). Lifetone recommends that you keep a spare set of four D cells on hand so that you can quickly correct a low-battery condition without unplugging the HLAC150.

- How can I tell whether my HLAC150 is running on its backup batteries?
 - The AC POWER indicator light at the top left of the housing will go out. Also, the word ERROR and the plug icon (🔌) will flash at the top left of the screen.

COMPATIBILITY

- Can I use the HLAC150 with a smoke detector that does not emit T-3 signals?
 - No. The HLAC150 recognizes T-3 signals that comply with Underwriters Laboratories specification UL 217. The HLAC150 does not recognize other types of signals, such as continuous tones, whoops, sirens, or ungrouped beeps. All smoke detectors manufactured since 1999 for home use in the USA employ T-3 signals.
- What does a T-3 signal sound like?
 - A UL 217-compliant T-3 signal consists of repeated groups of three beeps. Each beep lasts a half second, and beeps within a group are separated by a half-second of silence. There is a pause of 1½ seconds between groups. Each T-3 cycle contains three beeps and lasts about four seconds, including the pause. Graphically, it looks like this:



- My smoke detector uses groups of three beeps, but the beeps are faster (or slower) than a UL 217 T-3. Is my smoke detector compatible with the HLAC150?
 - In many cases, yes. The HLAC150 recognizes signals that deviate significantly from the UL 217 standard for a T-3 alert. However, there are a few detectors that differ so much from the standard that the HLAC150 does not recognize them, and you will not be able to use such a detector to set up your HLAC150.
- My smoke detector emits only one T-3 signal when I press and release the test button. How can I use this detector to set up my HLAC150?
 - Try holding down the detector's test button for five or ten seconds. If the detector starts to emit a string of T-3 tones, release the test button. (On a Homefront alarm, hold down the test button until the alarm chirps)

and the triangle symbol flashes three times. Release the test button immediately after the third flash, and the alarm will emit ten T-3 signals.) When the HLAC150 recognizes your detector, proceed with the set-up. You may need to press the detector's test button again to stop the test tones. If holding the button down doesn't produce at least two T-3 cycles, you can use a can of artificial smoke (Smoke Check is one brand) to force the detector to emit more than one T-3.

- My smoke detectors were installed years ago. Are they compatible with the HLAC150?
 - Over time, smoke detectors can lose sensitivity to smoke, and the National Fire Protection Association recommends replacing any smoke detector that is more than 10 years old. Almost all new smoke detectors purchased in the USA for residential use emit T-3 signals that are compatible with HLAC150.
- If I don't have a compatible T-3 smoke alarm, can I still use my HLAC150 as an alarm clock?
 - No. Although the HLAC150 includes a clock, the product is actually a piece of fire safety equipment. The HLAC150 will not permit you to set the clock or the wake-up alarm until the smoke-detector compatibility test has been successfully completed.
- Can the HLAC150 hear my smoke alarm through a closed door?
 - Probably. If your smoke alarm is not in the bedroom and you sleep with the door closed, you should set up the HLAC150 with the door closed. The HLAC150 adjusts its sensitivity to the T-3 alarm that it hears during the compatibility test, so you should perform the set-up under the same conditions. For maximum sensitivity, you can try to set up your HLAC150 with your most distant alarm. If at set-up the HLAC150 doesn't hear it, use a closer smoke alarm.
- Can I carry my HLAC150 with me and use it in a hotel when I travel?
 - Lifetone does not recommend this. Not all hotels use a T-3 alarm signal, and you might not be able to do the set-up and compatibility test with the hotel's alarm system. Instead, tell the hotel desk clerk that you need a room with a smoke alarm suitable for a person with hearing loss.

USING THE HLAC150 WITH AN INTERCONNECTED ALARM SYSTEM

- Can I use the HLAC150 with interconnected T-3 alarms?
 - Yes. If you have interconnected alarms, the alarm that is closest (or loudest) must be at least 10 dB louder than the rest. Use the nearest alarm to set up the HLAC150, and afterwards do a live test with eight to ten T-3 cycles of that alarm to make sure the HLAC150 recognizes it (see TESTING: "How do I do a live test?").

TESTING

- My HLAC150 is set up and working. Can I test it without going through the power-on sequence?
 - Yes, there are two ways to do this: a self test and a live test.


- How do I get the HLAC150 to do a self test?
 - Firmly press the red TEST/SILENCE button on the back until you see **TEST** appear on the screen; then release the button. After testing its speaker and microphone, the HLAC150 will pulse the bed shaker briefly, flash **FIRE**, and sound a low-frequency T-3 alarm. This takes about 30 seconds. The HLAC150 will then resume normal operation.

- How do I do a live test of the HLAC150?
 - To conduct a live test, activate your smoke detector for seven or eight consecutive, uninterrupted T-3 cycles. (You may have to hold the button down for 30 seconds or so.) If your smoke detector sounds only one or two T-3 cycles when its test switch is pressed, you can use a can of artificial smoke (Smoke Check is one brand) to get the smoke detector to keep sounding. The HLAC150 should respond with its audible, visual, and tactile alerts for a fire. After silencing your smoke alarm, press the red TEST/SILENCE button to silence the HLAC150. Note: If you don't silence your smoke detector first, the HLAC150 hear your smoke detector again and will resume alerting you.

- How do I do a compatibility test?
 - If the HLAC150 is already set up, you can do a live test by pressing the test button on one of your installed alarms until you hear eight or ten consecutive T3 cycles as described above. If the smoke alarm is compatible, the HLAC150 will sound its alarm. Another way is to remove all power and perform the initial set-up again. Unplug the HLAC150 and remove one of the batteries. Replace the battery and follow the instructions under INITIAL SET-UP.

- How often should I test my HLAC150?
 - Lifetone recommends three test intervals.
 1. Perform the self test once a week.
 2. Perform a live test every time you change the batteries in your smoke alarm. If it is not convenient to do a live test, you may perform the set-up and detector compatibility test instead.
 3. Perform a compatibility test annually.
 4. In addition, you must do a compatibility test every time you replace or relocate your smoke alarm (see "INITIAL SET-UP").

SILENCING THE HLAC150 AFTER AN EMERGENCY ALERT


- My HLAC150 began sounding when I burned some toast. I pressed the red TEST/SILENCE button, but the HLAC150 started flashing **FIRE** again. How can I silence the HLAC150?
 - You need to silence your smoke alarm first. The HLAC150 doesn't have its own smoke detector; instead, it listens for an alarm signal from your existing smoke detector(s). If that alarm is still sounding, the HLAC150 will hear it and resume alerting you.
- Why do I have to silence my smoke alarm before I silence my HLAC150?
 - When you press the TEST/SILENCE button after a fire alert, the HLAC150 enters a two-minute period of enhanced sensitivity, indicated by a sine-wave icon () on the display screen. If you silence the HLAC150 first, you will probably not be able to get to your smoke alarm and silence it before the HLAC150 hears it again and resumes alerting you.
- I have two HLAC150s, and they set each other off. How can I silence them both?
 - The HLAC150 is designed to hear not only the high-frequency T-3 of a typical smoke detector but also the low-frequency alarm of another HLAC150 or HLAC100. Here's how to silence them after a false alarm or a test:
 1. First, silence your smoke detector(s).
 2. Second, unplug one of your HLAC units and carry it to the location of the other. Press the red TEST/SILENCE button on each. Then return the first HLAC to its usual location and plug it back in.

ERROR MESSAGES AND TROUBLESHOOTING

- My HLAC150 is flashing **BATT** and chirping once a minute, and the bed shaker is vibrating briefly every minute. What's wrong?
 - First, don't unplug your HLAC150 from the wall outlet. **BATT** means that the batteries are missing, depleted, or incorrectly installed. When installing batteries, be sure to match the polarity markings (+ and -) shown in the battery compartment. The bottom of the battery goes toward the coiled spring. Lifetone recommends that you keep a spare set of four D-cell batteries.
- My HLAC150 is flashing **beds** and chirping every five seconds. What's wrong?
 - The most likely cause is that the bed shaker has come unplugged or the plug is not completely seated in the jack. Unplug the bed shaker and reseal it firmly in the jack. If that doesn't work, check the bed-shaker cord for damage. Replacement bed shakers are available from Lifetone.

- My HLAC150 is going off (alerting), and I don't know why.
 - The display screen will tell you. Look for one of these:
 1. If the screen is flashing **FIRE**, the HLAC150 has heard a T-3 signal. Evacuate the house and evaluate the situation from a safe location. **Never ignore any alarm.**
 2. If the screen is flashing **BATT**, you need to replace the batteries.
 3. If the screen is flashing **beds**, there is a problem with the bed shaker. Most likely it has come unplugged, or the plug is not completely inserted. Unplug the bed shaker and firmly plug it back in. If the HLAC150 continues to flash **beds**, check for damage to the bed-shaker cord.
 4. If the screen is flashing the time of day, the wake-up alarm is going off.
 5. If the screen is flashing all segments of the LCD display (**88:88** where the time of day is normally displayed, for example), there has been a failure. This usually indicates that the HLAC150 did not hear a compatible T-3 signal during set-up, but it may be because a recent power outage used up the last of the battery backup before the power came back on. Unplug the HLAC150, install fresh batteries if needed, and redo the set-up (see "INITIAL SET-UP").
- My HLAC150 is just sitting there and flashing **TEST**. What does this mean?
 - The HLAC150 is waiting for you to initiate the set-up procedure. Press the red TEST/SILENCE button on the back to begin the procedure (see "INITIAL SET-UP").
- How can I stop my HLAC150 from alerting me when my neighbor's smoke alarm sounds?
 - You can prevent this by redoing the initial set-up, this time using a closer (louder) smoke alarm. The HLAC150 will adjust its sensitivity accordingly.

LOSS OF AC POWER

- What happens if I lose AC power?
 - The AC-POWER indicator light will go out. The upper left corner of the display screen will flash ERROR, and a power-plug icon () will flash. If set, the wake-up alarm will alert as usual during the first 24 hours of a power outage. Normal operation will resume when AC power is restored.
- How long will my HLAC150 operate without AC power?
 - The HLAC150 will operate for a minimum of 7 days (168 accumulated hours) on battery backup, and the emergency alarm will still be able to sound at full power for at least 4 minutes. When the batteries become depleted to the point that they have only 24 hours of backup power left, you will get a low-battery alert.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

- Can I get help from an expert?
 - Certainly! Your safety is important. Call our technical support line at **800-648-7923** (outside the U.S. call 405-200-1698). A member of our U.S.-based technical staff will be happy to assist you.

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