

## Gas / Smoke / Fire detectors

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There is no smoke without fire. And where is smoke in offroading, someone might cook a dinner or heat some water for a coffee. If that happens outdoor, it's not a problem. But when it rains and is cold outside, I prefer to do all that inside my car and have the coziness of my auxiliary heating. I use a gas stove and that can create some perils. Enough fresh air is essential (I don't want to kill myself). In addition, there is always the danger that the valves and tubes could have become loose due to the vibrations during driving and therefore don't seal the gas hermetically anymore. Also cooking itself can create unwanted side effects (eg smoldering). That can become very awkward as I spend the night inside my Zebra.

This is why I bought a smoke- and a fire detector. Both are still available in duo-packs in camping brochures (prize around 280 CHF in total). Today, there are also detectors on the market that combine the two (however, I don't know their effectiveness). The gas detector I have mounted close to the floor (gas is heavier than air) and the smoke detector I have fixed just under the roof. Before I go on tour, I always test them with either a cigarette (smoke detector) or some cigarette lighter gas (gas detector). The breath after a good sip of whiskey also does the work for the gas detector. So far, they didn't have to prove themselves. The quality of the devices is acceptable. However the protection cover is very thin and I had to repair it already twice because I touched the gas sensor with my shoes. Also, I had to replace twice a transistor in the detector electronics. In addition their current consumption may not be underestimated (0.2 Ah).

To be ready for all cases I have mounted a third device. A Pro Car K.O. alarm that detects knock out gases used by burglars. Also this (or similar) detectors are available with camping specialists or through the internet. Prize is roughly 170 CHF.