

Proactive RV Fire Prevention & Protection – Fridge Defend Install (4.5/5 Stars)

By Tim Keppler

As an experienced RVer who has owned nine rigs, I know the difference between dealing with a sudden problem and taking proactive measures. Installing the Fridge Defend controller with the Fan Kit on our new-to-us 2006 Safari Trek's Norcold D1095 fridge was definitely a proactive choice—and worth the investment 100%.

Having known about Fridge Defend for a decade, this was my third time installing one of the controllers from [ARPRV](#). It remains a far superior solution to relying solely on a factory recall cutoff, as it actively prevents dangerous overheating without ruining the off-grid efficiency of a traditional absorption fridge.

What Went Well:

- **Reliable Safety:** Once installed, it gives total peace of mind against fridge damage and fire risks.
- **Support & Documentation:** The online videos, diagrams, and ARPRV President Paul Umack's direct support contact information (Paul quickly sent a helpful picture when I hit a snag) are top-notch.
- **Straightforward Wiring:** On a difficulty scale of 1 to 5, I'd rate the process a 2. Removing the previous owner's poorly wired Titan fan setup (that provided no thermal cutoff for an overheating fridge) and integrating the Fridge Defend unit went smoothly once the wires were clearly identified.

Why 4.5 Stars Instead of 5:

- **Model-Specific Differences:** Because every RV layout and fridge model varies slightly, you won't find a video or guide that perfectly mirrors your exact setup – but the samples provided by ARPRV are great.
- **Flue & Wire Layout Snags:** Opening the flue housing required a bit of troubleshooting as it was a tight fit for my fingers, and accounting for the ground wire routing with the fan kit took a quick mid-install adjustment. Also, my inability to securely fasten the fan's sensor wire required a quick trip to purchase some aluminum tape (recommended by the vendor).

Conclusion:

Fridge Defend comes in two basic versions, one with and the other without fan control. The non-fan control version will fully protect the fridge from overheating. The version with fan control uses the boiler and fan sensors to make a holistic fridge control that can be installed and forgotten about. If you are comfortable identifying 12V wires and following a schematic, this is an essential upgrade for any absorption fridge owner.

