



News Release

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For Release: IMMEDIATE

CHECK SMOKE ALARMS WHEN CHANGING CLOCKS

(SUNRISE, FL)- Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9. Sunrise Fire Rescue reminds you to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries when you change your clocks.

Changing the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors is a simple step you can take to help protect your home and your family. When testing your smoke alarms, make sure they are placed near the bedrooms in your home. The primary function of these alarms is to wake and alert you of smoke in the house while you are sleeping. Always read the manufacturer instructions when installing your smoke alarms.

“It is important to maintain your smoke alarms and ensure they are working properly,” said Interim Fire Chief Thomas DiBernardo. “Being prepared ahead of time can make the difference in the event of a fire or other emergency where your smoke alarms may just be what helps to save your life.”

This is also a great time to create and practice escape routes with your entire family. Always remember to include two ways out and designate a safe meeting place outside to wait until help arrives. Sunrise Fire Rescue reminds you to “Get out and stay out!” Never go back into a burning building.

Here are some safety tips on smoke detectors from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the “test” button.
- Smoke rises. So, install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least twice a year. If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old (or sooner if they do not respond properly).
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Make sure you have a plan in case of fire.

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