



News Release

Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department
(954) 746-3400
www.sunrisefl.gov
For Release: IMMEDIATE

SPRING FORWARD! CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.

(SUNRISE, FL)- Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8. Sunrise Fire Rescue reminds you to test your smoke detectors and change the batteries when you change your clocks.

Working smoke alarms save lives. Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes without them. Changing the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors is an important step you can take to help protect your family and your home.

“It is important to maintain your smoke alarms and ensure they are working properly,” said 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.”

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

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Because smoke rises, install smoke alarms high on a wall or on a ceiling, follow the manufacturer’s instructions. Keep smoke alarms 10 feet or more away from the stove to reduce false alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms which will signal all smoke alarms to sound together if one smoke alarm sounds.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms twice a year or sooner if an alarm “chirps,” warning that the battery is low.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the “test” button. Replace any that do not respond per the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Make sure you have a plan in case of fire.

“This is also a great time for the whole family to create and practice escape routes” said Chief DiBernardo. Always remember to include two ways out from each room, and designate a safe meeting place outside to wait until help arrives. Remember: “Get out and stay out!” Never go back into a burning building.

For more information and safety tips, visit the City of Sunrise website at www.sunrisefl.gov, ‘Like’ us on Facebook at Sunrise-Rescue, and follow us on Twitter @SunriseFRD.