

March 8, 2017

Spring ahead – change clocks and smoke alarm batteries

The Campbell River Fire Department recommends changing smoke alarm batteries when you set your clocks ahead one hour for daylight saving time on Sunday, March 12 at 2 a.m.

“When we spring forward one hour, consider this a good time to install fresh smoke alarm batteries as well,” says deputy fire chief Thomas Doherty. *“Batteries should be replaced at least once a year, and smoke alarms tested monthly.”*

Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms. When smoke alarms should have worked but failed to operate, it is usually because batteries were missing, disconnected or dead. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides the following guidelines around smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area as well as on every level of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace the smoke alarm immediately if it doesn't respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, a warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

For more information on smoke alarm safety, visit www.nfpa.org/public-education.

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