

Oct. 30, 2013
#131030-CHANGECLK

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Change your Clock Change Your Battery® on Nov. 3

Daylight saving time ends Sunday, Nov. 3. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management encourages residents to use the extra hour they “gain” from daylight saving time to change the batteries in their own smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, test their alarms and remind friends and family to do the same. With the peak time for home fire fatalities occurring from 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most families are sleeping, this simple step can help save their lives and the lives of those around them.

Tragically, home fires injure and kill thousands each year. Those most at risk include:

- **Children** – Home fires kill 500 children ages 14 and under each year. Roughly three-quarters of child fire fatalities under age 15 occurred in homes without working smoke alarms.
- **Seniors** – Adults 75 and older are 2.8 times more likely to die in a home fire.
- **Low-Income Households** – Many low-income families are unable to afford batteries for their smoke alarms. These same households often rely on poorly installed, maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment — a main cause of fatal home fires.

Eighty percent of child fire fatalities occur in homes without working smoke alarms. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms is worn or missing batteries. Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, testing those alarms and reminding others to do the same are some of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends that smoke alarms in homes be replaced every 10 years and to have both ionization and photo electric smoke alarms to alert people to all types of home fires. If you need assistance changing or testing your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, please contact your local fire department.

Twenty-six years ago, Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognized a disturbing trend that many home fire fatalities were taking place in homes without working smoke alarms. So through the years, the two have worked together along with thousands of fire departments nationwide on the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® program to help reduce and hopefully, one day, eliminate this number by reminding communities to check, change and test their smoke alarm batteries.

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Fire statistics were obtained from reports by the Fire Analysis and Research Division of the National Fire Protection Association. See www.nfpa.org for more information