



NEWS RELEASE

Communications and Public Affairs
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

For Immediate Release:
October 29, 2015

Contact: Steve Concialdi
714-357-7782
steveconcialdi@ocfa.org

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

Irvine, CA – It's time to fall back! Changing your clocks back an hour this Sunday morning, November 1, at 2 a.m., is also a great time to change your smoke alarm batteries.

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) recommends changing the batteries in your smoke alarms every six months, so doing it when the time changes for Daylight Saving Time makes it easy to remember. Smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out.

According to statistics from the National Fire Protection Agency –

- 75 percent of failed smoke alarms are due to missing batteries
- Working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire by 50 percent
- Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths were in homes with no working smoke alarms, or no smoke alarms at all
- Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep

The community is encouraged to join OCFA in its smoke alarm campaign to reduce risk. **“Install, Inspect, Protect,”** is a great way to remember some vital information.

Key components include:

Install:

- **Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, inside each sleeping area, and in every hallway leading to sleeping areas**

- **Replace the entire unit every 10 years**

Inspect:

- **Test your hard-wired and battery operated smoke alarms every month**
- **Change the batteries twice a year, when changing your clocks for both battery operated and hard wired smoke alarms**
- **Clean your smoke alarms every year**

Protect:

- **Plan a home escape plan and ensure that everyone in the household knows the sound that the alarm makes and what to do if they hear it**
- **Identify two ways out of each room and designate a meeting place outside the home to account for family members in the event of an emergency**
- **Practice your home fire drills every six months and remember to crawl low under the smoke & go**
- **Call 911 immediately and ensure that everyone knows your Home Escape Plan**

Orange County Fire Authority encourages all Orange County residents to take two simple steps that can save lives: ensure you have working smoke alarms in your home, and create and practice home fire exit drills.

Fire experts agree that people may have as little as one minute to escape a burning home before it's too late to get out. A working smoke alarm reduces the chance of dying in a fire by nearly half, and a pre-determined escape plan ensures that everyone knows the best way out and where to meet once outside.

Now is the time to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries too.

OCFA provides free smoke alarm installations to at-risk communities. For more information visit www.ocfa.org or call the smoke alarm line at (714) 573-6190.

###

The OCFA is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.