



NEWS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release:
March 6, 2015

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

Don't Forget to Change Smoke Alarm Batteries when You Change Your Clocks

Irvine, CA – The clocks are moving ahead an hour this Sunday morning, March 8, at 2:00 AM. It's also a great time to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries. According to the Orange County Fire Authority, whenever the time changes is the best time to check your smoke alarm and change their batteries! Nationally, approximately 75% of failed smoke alarms are due to missing batteries.

We are asking the community to join the OCFA in efforts to reduce the risk. Our smoke alarm campaign, "**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**

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.

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 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.

For more valuable information, please visit "Install, Inspect, Protect at www.ocfa.org.

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