



# NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority  
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

1 Fire Authority Rd.  
Irvine, CA 92602  
(714) 573-6201

November 3, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject:** The ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY URGES YOU TO CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

**Contact:** Captain Greg McKeown @ (714) 402-3739 [gregmckeown@ocfa.org](mailto:gregmckeown@ocfa.org)

Irvine, CA – Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7th this year, and changing your clocks is a good reminder to change the batteries in your smoke alarms according to the Orange County Fire Authority. This 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.

“Smoke alarms save lives,” says OCFA Fire Marshal Laura Blaul. “The smoke alarm provides extra time to exit your home, greatly increasing your chance of survival in a house fire. In over 70% of home fires and nearly all fire deaths in Orange County, no working smoke alarm was present. They are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect you and your family. There is no excuse not to ensure yours are working today.”

We are asking the community to join the OCFA in efforts to reduce risks, the OCFA has developed a new program called “Install, Inspect, Protect.” 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:

- Develop a home escape plan and ensure that everyone in the household knows the sound the alarm makes and ensure that everyone knows their Home Escape Plan.
- 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 outside.
- Call 911 immediately

For more valuable information, please visit “**Install, Inspect, Protect**” at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org) and on [Facebook](#).

For other important safety information, please call (714) 573-6200

###

*The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.4 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*