



# NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority  
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

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

October 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject:** A FEW EXTRA SECONDS COULD SAVE LIVES! THE OCFA ASKS YOU TO CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.

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

**Irvine, CA** –As we change our clocks this Sunday morning back to Standard Time, it 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.

“Smoke alarms save lives,” says OCFA Fire Marshal Laura Blaul. “The extra time that the smoke alarm provides, greatly increases your chance of survival in a house fire. They are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect you, your family, and your home.”

We are asking the community to join the OCFA in efforts to reduce risks, prevent fires, and improve community safety by:

- Have a battery operated smoke alarm on every level of your home, even if you have hard-wired smoke alarms
- Check your hard-wired and battery operated smoke alarms every month
- Change the batteries twice a year, when changing our clocks
- Replace the entire unit every 8-10 years
- Make sure everyone in the household knows the sound the alarm makes and what to do if they hear it.
- Have an escape plan for your home and designate a meeting place outside the home to account for family members in the event of an emergency.
- Never “borrow” smoke alarm batteries or disconnect them from the device.
- Never paint a smoke alarm.

As Standard Time begins, change your clocks and change your smoke alarm batteries too. This is an easy way to protect your family from fire. For other important safety information, call (714) 573-6200 or go to [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org).

# # #

*The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*