



Change Your Clock – Check Your Alarm

www.ocfa.org

A working smoke alarm in your home can mean the difference between life and death. Smoke alarms with batteries that are dead, disconnected, or missing cannot alert you to the dangers of smoke and fire. **So, when you change your clock back this fall, check your smoke alarms, and if necessary change the battery.**

For more information on “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™,” visit www.iafc.org or www.energizer.com/learning/FireSafety.asp.

The right way to install smoke alarms:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Make sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area.
- Local codes may require a smoke alarm inside every sleeping area.
- Alarms that are hard-wired should have battery backups in case of a power outage.
- If someone in your home is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing an alarm that combines flashing lights, vibration and/or sound.
- For assistance or additional details on smoke alarms, contact Community Relations at (714) 573-6200 or a qualified electrician.

Smoke Alarm Facts

- Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.
- A smoke alarm reduces your chance of dying in a house fire by 50 percent.



Test Your Smoke Alarms Monthly

- Test your smoke alarms regularly.**
- Replace the batteries routinely.**
- Chirping indicates a weak battery.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.
- Consider installing "long-life" (10-year) batteries.**

False Alarms

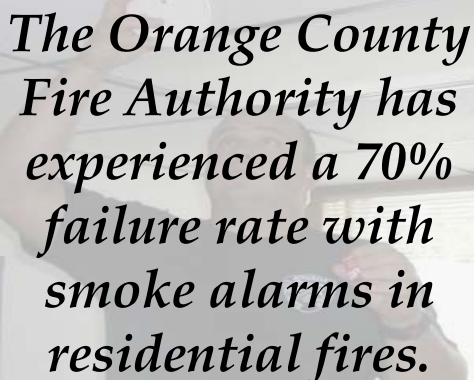
- If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Consider photoelectric (PE) sensors near kitchens and bathrooms.
- Regularly vacuum or dust your smoke alarms.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

Make a Plan

- Plan regular fire drills to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know two ways out of each room.
- Have an outside meeting place.

Practice

- Hold a drill at night to make sure that sleeping family members awaken at the sound of the alarm.

A person is shown holding a smoke alarm. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a kitchen or bathroom setting.

*The Orange County
Fire Authority has
experienced a 70%
failure rate with
smoke alarms in
residential fires.*

For More Information

www.ocfa.org
www.recalls.gov
www.nfpa.org
www.cpsc.gov
www.iafc.org
www.energizer.com/learning/FireSafety.asp

** Refer to Manufacturer's Recommendation specific to your smoke alarm.