

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY**

SUFFOLK, VA (November 2, 2016) - The end of daylight-savings time at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2016 can prove to be a life saver. The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department says the time change serves as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises that roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.

Although smoke detector batteries might last as long as a year, the experts say they should be changed twice yearly. A smoke alarm only works when it is properly installed and maintained. Depending on how your smoke alarm is powered (9-volt, 10-year lithium, or hardwired), you will have to maintain it according to manufacturer's instructions.

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Other smoke alarm safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

For more information on home fire safety, or to request assistance with checking smoke detectors and batteries, please contact the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department at 757-514-4550.

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