



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
Captain Steve Concialdi /PIO
1 Fire Authority Rd.
Irvine, CA 92602
(714) 357-7782

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Contact: Captain Steve Concialdi, PIO @ (714) 357-7782 or steveconcialdi@ocfa.org

Irvine, CA – The Orange County Fire Authority is participating in the National Campaign “Change Your Clocks – Change Your Batteries” and recommends changing the batteries in your smoke alarms every six months! It’s time to fall back! The time is changing this Sunday morning, November 2, at 2:00 AM, so it’s a great time to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries. Nationally, approximately 75% of failed smoke alarms are due to missing batteries. “According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire by 50%. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.”

"In a fire, seconds count. Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

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 clock
- Clean your smoke alarms when the batteries are changed

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

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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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.