



NEWS RELEASE

Communications and Public Affairs
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For Immediate Release

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Did You Change your Batteries? – Now is the Perfect Time to Check Your Smoke Alarms

Irvine, CA – Smoke alarms save lives! With the clocks moving ahead one hour on March 13, now is the perfect time to check your smoke alarms to make sure they are working. Push the button and hold it down. If you hear the smoke alarm sound that is good. If the alarm does not sound it's time to change the battery. If the unit is more than 10 years old, it's time for a new smoke alarm. Make sure to have a smoke alarm on every level of the home and in every sleeping area. Nationally, approximately 75% of failed smoke alarms are due to missing batteries.

We are asking the community to join the OCFA in efforts to reduce risks, by remembering “Install, Inspect, Protect.”

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, check the back of the smoke alarm for the date.

Inspect:

- Test 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:

- Plan a home escape plan and ensure that everyone in the household knows the sound 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.

Smoke alarms save lives! You could be saving the lives of yourself and others.

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

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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.