

March 9, 2011

Tribune

Are Your Smoke Alarms Working?

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHECK YOUR BATTERIES

This March 13th when you change your clocks, be sure to check your smoke alarm batteries!

Facts & Figures

- A 2008 survey found that 96% of U.S. households had at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of the five (41%) reported home fires.
- Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2003-2006 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.

Safety Tips:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once per year. If an alarm "chirps," replace batteries right away. If you have a smoke alarm with a ten year lithium battery, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Ensure you have smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Never remove or disable smoke alarms.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Be sure to plan and practice your home escape plan at least twice per year.

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