



A friendly reminder from  Safe Kids
USA.

When setting your clocks back each November for Daylight Savings Time, the Northshore Fire Department urges people to use the extra hour to make a life-saving change in your household. Change and test the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and remind your friends, family and neighbors to do the same. This simple act only takes a moment but is one of the best defenses your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire.

Non-working smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits they were designed to provide, which is early warning to allow people more time to safely escape. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms: worn or missing batteries.

The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most families are sleeping. Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire

deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, and outside every sleeping area. New homes are required to have a smoke alarm in every bedroom and all smoke alarms must be interconnected; when one smoke alarm goes off, the others will activate as well.

In addition to changing the battery at least once a year, test your smoke alarms monthly, and replace smoke alarms every ten years. Remember that a “chirping” smoke alarm is a signal that it needs a fresh battery.

The Northshore Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to recommend also using the “extra” hour to plan and practice home fire escape routes.

Remember

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| <i>1/month</i> | <i>Test your smoke alarms!</i> |
| <i>1/year</i> | <i>Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms!</i> |
| <i>10 years</i> | <i>Replace your smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years!</i> |