

Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries, Change the Statistics

THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER marks the end of daylight saving time. Sunday, Nov. 4, is the day we return to standard time by setting our clocks back one hour before 2 a.m. It's also a perfect time to perform a safety check in and around your home.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reminds everyone of the simple life-saving habit of changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. By doing so, you can help reduce the more than 360,000 fires in homes each year. Did you know there are roughly 2,200 deaths and 11,000 emergency-room related injuries each year? Proper installation, operation and maintenance of smoke alarms reduce the risk of property damage, injuries and death. You can also install a smoke alarm that has a sealed-in battery that will last 10 years.

In addition to smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms should also be checked this same weekend. Carbon monoxide is the invisible killer—it's a colorless, odorless gas and it can kill within minutes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, just 42 percent of households report having a working carbon monoxide alarm. If you are not one of them, considering purchasing this life-saving device. You can find them for less than \$50, a bargain to potentially save a life.

Changing the batteries in your smoke and CO alarms is the easiest way to ensure protection of your loved ones and your home in the event of a fire. The CPSC suggests the following tips for optimum operation of your smoke and CO detectors:

- ▶ Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.
- ▶ Consider interconnected smoke alarms that are connected to each other by a hard wire or by wireless technology. If one alarm is triggered, all interconnected alarms in the home sound, alerting consumers to the fire earlier.
- ▶ Install both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are generally more responsive to flaming fires while photoelectric detectors are generally more responsive to fires that begin with a long period of



Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors every six months to protect your loved ones and your home.

smoldering. There are also dual sensor smoke alarms that have both ionization and photoelectric sensors in one unit.

- ▶ Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms once a month to make sure they are working.
- ▶ Have a fire escape plan and practice it with your family.
- ▶ A smoke alarm can't save lives if everyone doesn't know what to do when it sounds. Have two ways to get out of each room and set a pre-arranged meeting place outside.
- ▶ Children and the elderly can sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm and not hear it go off, so a caregiver needs to be prepared to help others get out of the house.
- ▶ And remember, once you are out of the house, stay out. **KCL**

Information from the Consumer Protection Safety Commission. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical or mechanical hazard.