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Change smoke alarm batteries when you turn back the clock Nov. 7

With the daylight savings time change on Nov. 7, Sarasota County fire officials say this is a good opportunity to replace smoke alarm batteries.

Approximately 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in the home with no smoke alarms, or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can save lives – but only when they are working properly. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm will provide an early warning signal to a household, providing the chance for occupants to escape.

According to Sarasota County Fire Marshal Jane Ross, these safety tips could save lives:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside any sleeping areas, especially if you sleep with your bedroom door closed.
- Make a habit of replacing the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks for the time change.
- Keep smoke alarms clean. Dust can interfere with how your smoke alarm works. Regularly vacuum over your smoke alarm.
- Replace the battery right away if you hear a “chirping” noise, which indicates the battery might be low.
- Replace your smoke alarms about every 10 years. They do wear out, so write the purchase date with a marker on the back of the smoke alarms. That way you know when it should be replaced.

If you cannot afford a smoke alarm, the Sarasota County Fire Prevention Office can provide a smoke alarm to you. This program is available to keep you safe. For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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