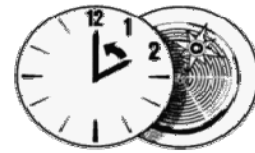




Change Your Clock



Change Your Battery

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

'CHANGE YOUR CLOCK - CHANGE YOUR BATTERY'

North Bay, October 28, 2009 - North Bay Fire & Emergency Services reminds citizens that this weekend when you "Change your Clock – Change your Battery." Smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries should be replaced twice a year and the spring and fall time change are a great reminder to do so. Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often the victims never wake up. "Working smoke alarms provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape," said Public Education Officer Sheri Korn. "This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors." Working smoke alarms can increase your chances of surviving a fire by up to 50%. Remember, on Sunday November 1st, when you *Change Your Clocks - Change Your Batteries* and practice your home fire escape plan.

Smoke alarm information:

- ✓ Ontario law requires that working smoke alarms be located on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas.
- ✓ For added protection, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom.
- ✓ Test smoke alarms monthly.
- ✓ Change the battery in smoke alarms twice a year or whenever the low-battery warning sounds.
- ✓ Vacuum the exterior of the smoke alarm using the soft bristle attachment on the vacuum cleaner.
- ✓ Replace smoke alarms that are more than ten years old.
- ✓ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing and maintaining smoke alarms.

Tampering with, or removing the batteries from your smoke alarms is against the law.

Failure to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000.

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For more information contact:
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Additional Information

Homes with working smoke alarms have an almost **50%** lower death rate in fire instances than homes without. However, in Ontario, the homes where people have died and smoke alarms were present, **85%** did not have a functioning smoke alarm because of dead or missing batteries.