

Media Release



Change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries as daylight saving ends

Thursday, 30 March 2017

The end of daylight saving signals that it's time for South Australians to change their smoke alarm batteries this weekend.

To save lives and prevent property damage, South Australian fire services recommend that replaceable smoke alarm batteries should be changed at the end of daylight saving every year or if a 'battery-low' warning 'beep' is emitted.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Greg Howard said smoke alarms give people early warning of a house fire, providing vital minutes to escape and firefighters with a greater chance of saving your home and belongings.

"Replaceable batteries in smoke alarms should be changed at the end of daylight saving every year so that the smoke alarm is able to do its job and save lives.

"While you're replacing the smoke alarm battery, it's also an opportune time to check the date of its manufacture, which is required under Australian Standard 3786 to be printed on the unit. Regardless of the power source, if the smoke alarm is 10 years or older, it should be replaced as the reliability cannot be guaranteed," said Commander Howard.

Country Fire Service (CFS) State Coordinator, Yvette Dowling said while some in our community are aware, most people don't realise that when you sleep your sense of smell is significantly diminished.

"Those few minutes spent changing the replaceable batteries and checking the age of smoke alarms at the end of daylight savings are a small trade-off when compared to the potentially devastating consequences of not having working smoke alarms in a house fire," she said.

In addition to the minimum requirements for smoke alarms, the MFS and CFS encourage people to install:

- smoke alarms that comply with Australian Standard 3786
- photo-electric smoke alarms that are connected to the mains power supply (i.e. hard wired)
- smoke alarms in all sleeping areas, in passageways leading to sleeping areas and in living areas; and
- smoke alarms that are all interconnected with one another.

**For media enquiries telephone the
MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849**

Further information:

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