

media release



Time to change smoke alarm batteries

Friday, 3 April 2020

The end of daylight saving marks the time for South Australians to change their smoke alarm batteries as they wind back their clocks.

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is also advising South Australians to take this opportunity to look around their home for any fire hazards and to create a Home Fire Escape Plan.

MFS Commander of Community Safety and Resilience Phil Crossley said one of the most important safety measures is making sure each home has a working smoke alarm.

“A clean, working smoke alarm can save lives and prevent property damage,” MFS Commander Crossley said.

“While you’re changing batteries in the smoke alarm, you should also check the age of your smoke alarm by the date stamp printed on - or inside the cover of - the smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, as they become less reliable with age.”

“Now is the time to prepare a Home Fire Escape Plan, and make sure your whole family including children know how to escape a fire safely and quickly. Every room in the house should have at least one escape route,” MFS Commander Crossley said.

Country Fire Service Acting Director for Preparedness Joel Taggart said batteries in smoke alarms should be replaced at the end of daylight saving every year.

“It only takes a few minutes to change your smoke alarm batteries to keep you and your family safe all year round,” CFS Acting Director for Preparedness Taggart said.

“What most people don’t realise is that when you’re asleep, your sense of smell is diminished. A smoke alarm can alert you and give you those few vital minutes to save your property or potentially save a life.”

Each year at the end of daylight saving all smoke alarms require the following actions:

- Replaceable smoke alarm batteries should be changed every year at the end of daylight saving, and whenever a ‘battery-low’ warning ‘beep’ is heard. Hard-wired smoke alarms may also have replaceable backup batteries.
- Check the age of your smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years as they become less reliable beyond this age. The date is printed on, or inside the smoke alarm.

For more information about smoke alarms and making a Home Fire Escape Plan, visit <http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au>

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