

November 1, 2016

Change smoke alarm batteries when clocks go back an hour

Because two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoking alarm, the Campbell River Fire Department is reminding people to put new batteries in smoke alarms when clocks go back an hour at the end of daylight savings time on Nov. 6.

“Saving your life can be as simple as changing your smoke alarm batteries once a year and replacing smoke alarms every seven to 10 years,” says Stewart Dumont, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1668 president and fire prevention officer for the Campbell River Fire Department. Special smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hearing-impaired.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that working smoke alarms cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Research has also demonstrated that photoelectric smoke alarms are more effective at warning people of smoke from smoldering fires than ionization smoke alarms. With earlier warning, people have more time to escape a burning structure and call 9-1-1.

Your local fire fighters recommend installing a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on each floor of your home.

“You should also install carbon monoxide alarms in your home and check them once a month,” says Dumont. Carbon monoxide fumes are poisonous and will increase the intensity of a fire if ignited.

More than 2,300 people die each year in home fires. Having smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms that work 24 hours a day will greatly increase your chance of survival if your home catches on fire.

In the case of an emergency, please call 9-1-1 for the help of your local fire fighters.

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