



## **City of Dixon Fire Department**

### **NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release**

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### ***“CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and ..... CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES”***

Dixon, CA- On early Sunday morning, November 1, 2015 at 02:00:00 AM, Californians will be turning their clocks back one hour in observance of the end of daylight savings time.

This action serves as a good reminder to change the batteries in your smoke alarms which should also be done twice a year. In addition you should test your smoke alarm every month. This is done by simply pressing the alarm's test button. Vacuum your alarm at least once a year as dust and cobwebs can impair its sensitivity. Never paint over a smoke alarm. In order to maintain the highest level of protection the law requires smoke alarms to be replaced every 10 years.

Batteries in a smoke alarm should be changed even if they are hardwired directly into the building's electrical system. In the case of hardwired alarms, the battery will keep the alarm functioning in the event of a power failure.

Firefighters are also urging residents to replace the batteries in their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at the same time.

Remember, almost every day a smoke alarm saves somebody's life. Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Since most fatal fires occur at night, it's essential that every home have working smoke alarms to provide an early warning. Working smoke alarms increase the chance of surviving a fire by 50 percent.

If the smoke alarm activates and you see or smell smoke, stay low to the ground and crawl quickly as you exit your home. Don't try to take anything with you, just

get out. Once safely outside, go to your family meeting place to ensure that everyone got out safely. Once you're out, **STAY OUT!** Make sure to prepare and practice an escape plan. Just as schools practice fire drills, families should practice what to do if their smoke alarms sound.

The Dixon Fire Department has long advocated the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" campaign, as a smoke alarm is one of the cheapest and most effective ways homeowners can provide year round life protection for themselves and their families. Every year lives are lost in homes with non-functioning or missing smoke alarms. In a study conducted by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), nearly 96% of households report having at least one fire alarm, yet the US Fire Administration reports residential fires make up nearly 83% of all civilian fire deaths. The culprit is generally a missing or dead battery in the alarm.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms unquestionably help save lives, but they are useless without working batteries in them. Just a few minutes twice a year to change that battery can truly mean the difference between life and death. Save a life... when you change your clocks, change your smoke and CO alarm batteries too.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, in the hallways leading to the bedrooms, and on each level of your home including the basement. Smoke alarms should be mounted on the ceiling at least 4" from a wall. Wall-mounted alarms should be no lower than 12" from the ceiling. Do not install them near drafty areas (windows, heater vents) or near cooking areas. This minimal effort could mean the difference between life and death.

For more information on this topic or if you need assistance in replacing your alarm batteries, please contact Greg Lewis, Dixon Fire Marshal at 707-678-7060.

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