

NEWS RELEASE



Southern Platte Fire Protection District
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Daylight Saving Time Change

Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries

Parkville MO (March 5, 2010) With the change of daylight saving time beginning Sunday, March 14, the Southern Platte Fire protection District reminds you that when you change your clock, change the batteries in your smoke alarms. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a working smoke alarm increases your family's chances of a safe escape from a fire by more than 50 percent.

The Fire District suggests you install at least one smoke alarm inside every sleeping area and on every level of your home. But installation is just the first step in protecting your family from fires. Smoke alarms also need to be tested and maintained if they are to continue to be your family's nose at night.

Southern Platte Fire offers these simple maintenance tips to ensure your smoke alarms are in good working order:

- Testing -- Test each alarm once a month to make sure it's operating. Testing is the only way to ensure it's working to protect you. Push the test button and listen for the alarm. If you can't reach the alarm, stand under it and push the test button with a broom handle.
- Replacing Batteries -- If your smoke alarms are battery-operated, replace the batteries according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do this at least twice a year (an easy reminder -- change your clock, change your batteries), or when the alarm chirps, alerting you the battery power is low. Replace the batteries immediately if you move into a new home. Make sure no one disables your smoke alarms by borrowing batteries for other uses.

- Cleaning -- Just as you clean your home, your smoke alarms need to be cleaned. Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions. Cobwebs and dust usually can be removed with a vacuum cleaner attachment. If you are going to be doing work nearby that could send dust in the air, cover the alarm with a shield. Also, shield the alarm if you are painting around it, and never paint on it. Remove the shield promptly after work is completed.

Southern Platte Fire District offers free smoke alarms to help reduce injury, death and property loss caused by fire. Chief Carrizzo states that “ the fire department can install the alarms and talk to the household members about fire safety tips, along with providing free batteries.”

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District's four stations provide fire suppression, inspections, emergency medical assistance, hazardous-materials response, and public education for more than 37,000 citizens in Platte County, MO. The Southern Platte Fire Protection District, which includes Parkville, Weatherby Lake, and Farley, is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In addition to serving its own District, the department provides automatic-aid assistance to the Kansas City Fire Department and Riverside Public Safety.

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