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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## Smoke Alarms Save Lives

### CAL FIRE reminds Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

**Sacramento-** The shrieking beeps from a smoke alarm could save someone's life. As Daylight saving time starts on Sunday, March 8, CAL FIRE and the Office of the State Fire Marshal are urging residents to take the life saving step, by replacing the batteries in all smoke alarms. Firefighters know that replacing batteries in smoke alarms when residents change their clocks does save lives.

"CAL FIRE has long advocated the 'Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery' campaign," said Chief Del Walters, director of CAL FIRE. "A smoke alarm is one of the cheapest and most effective ways homeowners can provide year round fire protection for themselves and their families."

Every year lives are needlessly lost in homes with no smoke alarms, or non-functioning smoke alarms. "There is no doubt that smoke alarms save lives," added Walters. "It just takes a few seconds to replace that battery, and it's your actions now that can make the difference between life and death."

CAL FIRE has the following tips on smoke alarms:

- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms twice a year
- Don't "borrow" or remove batteries from smoke alarms even temporarily
- Regularly vacuum or dust smoke alarms to keep them working properly
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Don't paint over smoke alarms
- Practice family fire drills so everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm goes off

[Smoke Alarms Save Lives Fact Sheet](#)

[Change Your Clocks & Check Your Smoke Alarm Fact Sheet](#)

Find more information visit the CAL FIRE Web site at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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