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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## CAL FIRE Reminds Californians to Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery

**Sacramento** - An estimated 890 lives could have been saved nationwide if their homes had working smoke alarms. To help reduce this number, CAL FIRE is reminding Californians that when turning their clocks back this Sunday night in observance of Daylight Saving Time, they should also replace the batteries in all smoke alarms.

Smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing deaths and injuries from fire. 96 percent of all homes in the United States have at least one smoke alarm. However, 65 percent of home fire deaths occur in homes with no alarms or no working smoke alarms. The minimal effort of changing the batteries twice a year could save a life.

“There is no excuse for residents not to have a working smoke alarm, when clearly too many lives are lost without them,” said Director Ruben Grijalva of CAL FIRE. “Just the simple purchase of a smoke alarm and battery could be the difference between life and death.”

CAL FIRE has the following tips on smoke alarms:

- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Replace batteries in smoke alarms twice a year
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily
- Regularly vacuum or dust smoke alarms to keep them working properly
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Practice fire drills so everyone in the family 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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