



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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Change batteries when changing clocks

Changing the batteries in smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors as you change clocks this weekend for Daylight Savings Time could save a life.

The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office says routinely changing batteries twice a year to coincide with Daylight Savings Time is a great way to create a public-safety habit and prevent unnecessary fire-related deaths. Eighty-three percent of all civilian fire-related deaths nationwide are a result of home fires, and on average, nearly three children a day die in these fires.

An early warning can provide critical extra seconds to escape. Smoke alarms double your family's chance of getting out of a home fire alive — but only if they work.

“Changing the batteries only takes minutes, but it could be the one thing that prevents a fire-related death,” said Tom Maloney, the county's fire marshal.

Snohomish County routinely teams up with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to promote the *Change Your Clock Change Your Battery*® campaign. The program urges all Americans to change smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries when changing clocks twice each year.

Snohomish County residents also should test their smoke alarms to ensure they work and develop an escape plan in case of emergency.

As you “spring forward” this weekend, be sure to promote a simple, lifesaving habit. Daylight Savings Time begins this year at 2 a.m. March 9.

“A working smoke detector is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire,” Maloney said.

For more information about fire safety, call the Office of the Snohomish County Fire Marshal at 425-388-3557 or visit the county Web site www.snoco.org, keyword “fire marshal.”

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