



**State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety**

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

1207 Quarrier St, 2nd Floor

Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 558-2191

Fax: (304) 558-2537

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Contact:

Carol Nolte, Public Education Division

Phone: 304-558-2191, Ext. 53223

E-mail: Carol.E.Nolte@wv.gov



“Change Your Clocks – Change Your Batteries®”

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 3rd, and marks the 26th anniversary of the “Change Your Clock Change Your Battery” program, created by Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). This campaign reminds people to check and change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors during the Fall time change....It’s quick and easy---and it could save your life!

Charleston, WV -- Last year, West Virginia’s fire departments responded to over 8,500 fires. Over 4,000 of these fires occurred in residences, where most fire deaths take place.

“Every year we see the same scenario: the weather gets colder, people are indoors more, and a fire breaks out. If the home has no working smoke alarms, families won’t get the early warning they need to safely escape the fire—and we’ll be investigating more fire

deaths that shouldn't have happened,” said Anthony Carrico, Acting West Virginia State Fire Marshal. “Fires spread so much more quickly than people realize. A working smoke alarm sounding off can literally mean the difference between surviving a fire or becoming a victim.”

Smoke alarms have a wide range of user-friendly options, including hush buttons for nuisance alarms, long-life batteries, and various types of notification sounds. As long as the smoke alarms have the UL® seal (Underwriters Laboratories) to show they have met recognized safety standards, and are installed and maintained according to manufacturers' directions, they will provide advance warning in case of fire.

Remember these tips about smoke alarms:

- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially outside sleeping areas—and preferably inside bedrooms as well.
- Test them at least once a month, and replace batteries at least once a year—use a birthday or anniversary as a reminder, or when you set your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- Replace all detectors after 10 years.
- Place smoke alarms according to manufacturer's directions.
- Clean the outside ONLY of a smoke alarm by gently going over the cover with the brush attachment of your vacuum cleaner. Never paint a smoke alarm.
- **Whenever a smoke alarm beeps, take it seriously.** It might just be a false alarm from cooking, temperature changes, or dust—but you can't afford to ignore the alert. Everyone in the family needs to react immediately.
- **Develop and practice a home escape plan.** Make sure your family knows two ways out of each room, a safe meeting place outside, how to call 9-1-1 once they're out, and why they should NEVER go back into a burning house.
- **West Virginia State Code requires all property owners to provide and install a working smoke alarm in the vicinity of the sleeping areas.**
- For more information on smoke alarms and home fire safety, visit these websites:
<http://www.energizer.com/learning-center/Pages/change-a-battery-save-a-life.aspx>
www.nfpa.org
www.usfa.fema.gov