



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES** **OCTOBER 30, 2007**

As the time change approaches on Sunday, November 4, the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District would like to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives: changing the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide (CO) detectors.

"Change Your Clocks - Change Your Batteries" is a national home fire safety campaign sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer batteries. The program urges all Americans to adopt a lifesaving habit: changing smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries when they change clocks for daylight saving time each spring and fall.

Replace old batteries with fresh, high quality batteries to keep your detectors ready to protect you all year-long. Take your old batteries and use them in toys, remotes, etc. After inserting fresh batteries, make sure the alarm is working by activating the safety test button. We recommend that you test your detectors at least once each month. If you have any doubt regarding their working condition, replace them. The life of a smoke detector is 7-10 years. If your detector is 10 years old or older, it should be replaced. The life of a CO detector is 3-5 years. Remember, properly working smoke alarms and CO detectors can save lives.

State law requires smoke detectors within 15 feet of bedrooms and one on each level of the home, including the basement. Newer homes must also have detectors inside the bedrooms. Detectors should be electric. For best protection get them with a battery backup power source. State law for CO detectors requires a battery as the primary or backup power source, and they must be placed within 15 feet of bedrooms. There are some detectors that have smoke and CO in a single unit.

Contact the Darien-Woodridge Fire District for questions on locating smoke detectors or CO detectors, or to perform a home safety survey.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District would also like to remind residents to:

- Place a smoke detector outside each sleeping area of the home
- Have a smoke detector on every level of your home
- Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use
- Make sure smoke detectors are clean and free of dust
- Teach children that a smoke alarm warns them if a fire starts
- Always dial 911 in case of any emergency
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed
- Have a family home escape plan
- Have a predetermined meeting place once outside
- Make sure you have two exits from each room

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