



WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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In today's fast-paced world, we often forget to stop and do the small things in life that matter most. So, as the time change nears on Sunday, Nov. 1, the Watertown Fire Department is reminding residents to make another change that could save their lives — changing the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Communities across the United States witness home fire deaths each year. An average of three children per day die in home fires and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Agency.

Changing smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire.

Additionally, it is recommended to replace your alarms every 10 years.

Having a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm can provide those crucial extra seconds to escape a burning home. Therefore, it is critical for families to adopt the life-saving habit of the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® program to make sure they take this one simple step to help keep their families safe.

In addition, the Watertown Fire Department recommends residents use the “extra” hour they save from the time change to test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors by pushing the test button, planning “two ways out” and practicing escape routes with the entire family.

Families should also prepare a fire safety kit that includes working flashlights and fresh batteries.