**NEWS from**

**BONITA SPRINGS**

**FIRE-RESCUE**

**November 1, 2013 Contact: Natalie Hughes**

**(239) 949-6227 Office**

**(239) 910-0749 Cell**

**IT’S TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES**

It’s time for a change! November 3 is the date to change your clocks, as Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. It’s also the perfect time to make a change that could save your life -- change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Changing smoke alarm batteries twice a year when you change your clocks is one of the most simple and effective ways to reduce deaths and injuries associated with home fires. In fact, a working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a house fire.

The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms? Worn or missing batteries. Recently, there were more than 1.3 million fires reported in the United States. These fires caused more than 3,000 civilian deaths, nearly 18,000 civilian injuries, and $11.6 billion in property damage.

On the average, 92 percent of American homes have smoke alarms; however, many households may have a false sense of security. Non-working smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits these life-saving devices were designed to provide. An inoperable smoke alarm is just as ineffective as having no smoke alarm at all.

After changing the batteries in smoke alarms, Bonita Springs Fire-Rescue also recommends that you take a few minutes to perform some minor maintenance such as cleaning dust from the devices. Also, always check the battery by pushing the test button. Most smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. It is recommended that residents with hard-wired alarms also have battery-operated alarms in case of power failure.

For more information on smoke alarms or fire safety and prevention, contact Bonita Springs Fire-Rescue at 239-949-6227.

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