



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Friday, March 10, 2017

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Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives! When You Change Your Clocks, Change the Battery in Your Smoke Alarm Too

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department would like to remind you that smoke alarms are a critical fire safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms can cut the chance of a home fire fatality in half!

Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2:00 AM, clocks will move forward one hour. An easy way to make sure that your smoke alarms work when you need them most is to replace the battery in your smoke alarm with a new one every time you adjust your clocks for daylight savings time. When you spring forward or fall back change the batteries too.

- Traditional 9-Volt Battery Smoke Alarms: Test monthly, change the battery for a new one twice a year and after ten years replace the entire smoke alarm.
- 10-Year Lithium Battery Operated Smoke Alarm: Test monthly, there is no need to replace the battery annually but do replace the entire unit after ten years.

Helpful smoke alarm tips to follow:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home if possible. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.

The Lakeland Fire Department offers free smoke alarms to Lakeland citizens that cannot afford them due to financial circumstances. For more information about the department's free smoke alarm program and for more fire safety tips visit <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfid>.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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