



Public Service Announcement

Change Your Clocks – Check Your Smoke Alarms

Port Coquitlam, BC ... March 5, 2009 ... This weekend when you move your clocks forward check your smoke alarms too. Remember only a working smoke alarm can save your life. Surveys show that as many as 50% of smoke alarms have dead batteries. Changing your smoke alarm battery when daylight savings time begins or ends can be a life saving habit.

Did you know ...

- A working smoke alarm in your home will reduce your chance of dying in a fire by half.
- It is recommended that smoke alarms be serviced once a year
- 96% of Canadian homes have smoke alarms but a third of the homeowners have not checked or replaced the batteries in the past year
- 18% admitted to never having changed the batteries of their smoke detector
- 40% have not replaced their smoke alarms in the past 10 years, as recommended
- 30% of homeowners have no idea how old their smoke alarms are

Most fatal fires take place at night, while you and your family are asleep -- when seconds can make a difference between life and death. If you have working smoke alarms in your home, you significantly increase your chances of surviving a fire! Smoke alarms are inexpensive and easy to install. To help keep your family safe, follow these smoke alarm rules:

- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps" warning that the battery is low. A good time to change your batteries is when you change your clocks for daylight savings time.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.

For more information on home smoke alarms, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca.

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Kathleen Vincent, Director
Legislative & Administrative Services
City of Port Coquitlam
Tel 604.927.5335
Fax 604.927.5331
Email vincentk@portcoquitlam.ca