

# media release



## Change your clock! Change your smoke alarm batteries

Monday, 30 March 2015

The end of daylight saving is fast approaching on Sunday 5 April so, right on cue, South Australia's fire services are once again reminding everyone to change their smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks back to standard time.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Greg Howard, reminds us that smoke alarm batteries should be changed every year so that the smoke alarm has the power it needs to do its job. .

"When changing your clocks back it's traditionally the best time to replace the batteries in smoke alarms to ensure you hear the alarms sounding in the event of a house fire."

"When changing the batteries, it's also the perfect time to check the age of your smoke alarms. It's an easy thing to do as the Australian Standard requires that they all have a date stamp printed on them. Regardless of their power source, all smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years as they become less reliable," MFS Commander Howard said.

CFS Director Preparedness Operations Leigh Miller said most people aren't aware that when you go to sleep, so does your sense of smell.

"This is why it's so critical to have a working smoke alarm to give you the time you need to escape a house fire. It only takes a few moments to change the batteries and check the age to ensure that the first step in your home fire escape plan is taken care of," Mr Miller said.

The MFS and CFS recommend that when you replace old smoke alarms you upgrade from the basic minimum required by law.

Contact your electrician to upgrade your smoke alarms with:

- smoke alarms that comply with Australian Standard 3786
- photo-electric smoke alarms that are connected to the mains power supply (i.e. hard wired)
- smoke alarms in all sleeping areas, in passageways leading to sleeping areas and in living areas; and
- smoke alarms that are all interconnected with one another.

Remember, only **working** smoke alarms save lives.

The fire services urge householders to combine the above safety tips with interconnected, photo-electric smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old and a Home Fire Escape Plan.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit: [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)

**For media enquiries telephone the  
MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849**

#### Further information:

MFS Community Education Department **8204 3611** Country callers **1300 737 637**  
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Or visit [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)