

# media release



## Change your clock! Change your smoke alarm batteries!

Thursday, 28 March 2013

It's that time of year again - when South Australia's fire services remind everyone to change their smoke alarm batteries.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Allan Foster said daylight saving ends on Sunday, 7 April 2013 in South Australia.

"When daylight saving ends, we're asking people to change the batteries in their smoke alarms throughout the home at the same time as they turn their clocks back. It's an annual tradition that saves lives and property; it's too important to ignore.

"Before changing the batteries, people should also check the age of their smoke alarms. If a smoke alarm has reached 10 years of age, it's time to replace the whole smoke alarm. That's because smoke alarms become less reliable with age," Commander Foster explained.

Smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire, allowing house occupants to escape and call '000' to alert Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters to a fire.

CFS Prevention Services Manager Leigh Miller said having working smoke alarms in your house is one of the most important things you can do for the safety of your family.

"A working smoke alarm will alert you to fire but it is also very important to have a rehearsed home fire escape plan so that if a fire does start, everyone in your family knows how to escape quickly and safely," Mr Miller said.

The fire services 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.

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**  
For deaf and hearing impaired or teletype service **TTY 133 677**

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)