

March 5, 2019

Tick, tock, test – And replace smoke alarm batteries when you spring ahead

As part of its reminder to replace smoke alarm batteries when you re-set your clocks for daylight saving time on Sunday, March 10, the City of Campbell River Fire Department is sharing a link to a powerful video.

“On your child’s life was produced as part of a national fire safety campaign in England, and it’s a powerful reminder of how important it is to have working smoke alarms in our homes,” says fire chief Thomas Doherty. *“So when you’re setting clocks ahead one hour for daylight saving time, take a moment to change smoke alarm batteries to give everyone in your household the best chance of surviving a house fire.”*

The link to the video is <https://youtu.be/lr2bekewg-8>

Fire Prevention Canada reports that, on average, fire kills eight people each week in Canada, with residential fires accounting for 73 per cent of these fatalities.

“Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms,” Doherty adds. *“When smoke alarms should have worked but failed to operate, it’s usually because batteries were missing, disconnected or dead.”*

National Fire Protection Association recommendations for smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area as well as on every level of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home recognizes the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace the smoke alarm immediately if it doesn’t respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, a warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

For more information on smoke alarm safety, visit www.nfpa.org/public-education.

###

Contact: Thomas Doherty, Fire Chief

250-286-6266