

RANCHO SANTA FE
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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067-0410

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CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — By now, most of us are adjusting to sun setting earlier in the day, the result of the fall season and recent switch back to standard time. The time change serves as a great opportunity to not only change the time on our clocks, but to change the batteries in our smoke alarms as well. Hopefully we've also had a chance to do so.

Smoke alarms (also called smoke detectors) are inexpensive, life-saving devices designed to be the first line of defense to help families safely escape a residential fire. When properly maintained, smoke alarms sense smoke when a fire is still small and alert occupants of eminent danger, providing them with time to escape. A key component of proper smoke alarm maintenance is making sure the batteries are working. Even hardwired smoke alarms often use batteries as a backup power source. The United States Fire Administration recommends testing your smoke alarms once a month by pressing the button located on the unit.

In addition, batteries should be completely replaced once a year whether they are still working or not. It is recommended that you select a date that you will remember to change your batteries. As stated earlier, time change is a great time to change your batteries. It's something we all do every year and you're already going around your home changing your clocks, so it's easy to accomplish both tasks at the same time.

Other tips for using properly using your smoke alarm include:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Smoke alarms should be placed inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- Because smoke rises, alarms should be placed high on the wall or ceiling.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced entirely every 8-10 years.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

For more information on smoke alarms or other fire safety topics, visit our website at www.rsf-fire.org.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 29,000 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

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