

Media Release



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Immediate Release

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Change your smoke alarm battery

Working smoke alarms provide vital early warning in the event of a fire. ACT Fire & Rescue is urging all ACT households to use the end of Daylight Savings – *Sunday, April 1st 2012* as the day to change your smoke alarm battery when you change your clock - and potentially save lives.

“When people are asleep, they can’t smell smoke,” ACT Fire & Rescue Chief Officer Paul Swain said.

“Smoke alarms are essential to wake people if a fire breaks out,” he said.

“ACT Fire & Rescue has already attended a number of house fires in 2012. Thankfully all properties involved had working smoke alarms installed and no lives were lost.”

ACT Fire & Rescue recommend that all residents replace their smoke alarm batteries with long-lasting alkaline batteries.

“ACT Residents are welcome to call into an ACT Fire Station over the following week as each Station has a limited supply of Duracell alkaline batteries,” ACT Fire & Rescue Chief Officer Paul Swain said.

All smoke alarms have a maximum lifespan of ten years. It is advised to check smoke alarms for the service date, (the date when the alarms will no longer work) indicated on the base of each smoke alarm and replace it accordingly, regardless of use.

Smoke Alarm Safety Tips:

- Only purchase smoke alarms that carry the Australian Standards symbol
- Install smoke alarms outside the sleeping areas on every level of your house and where people sleep with their doors closed, install a smoke alarm in the bedroom
- Test smoke alarms weekly and replace batteries yearly
- Clean smoke alarms every month by vacuuming the sensing chamber
- Try to avoid locating smoke alarms near cooking appliances and bathrooms. Smoke alarms are very sensitive and will activate with the smallest amount of smoke or steam

ACT Fire & Rescue urge ACT residents to visit www.changeyourbattery.com.au for more information.