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For Immediate Release

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES, AUTOMATIC MONTHLY E-MAIL REMINDER AVAILABLE

Alaska State Fire Marshal David Tyler is reminding Alaskans to check the batteries in their smoke and CO (carbon monoxide) alarms when they change their clock for Daylight Savings Time this Sunday. Tyler also reminds the public of a program that is available free of charge through The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety. Alaskans can go to The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety's web site at www.burny.alaska.gov and click on a "smoke alarm reminder" link. On this site they can sign up for a free monthly e-mail reminder to check their smoke alarms.

Many homes have smoke and CO alarms with batteries that should be replaced at least twice annually. Daylight Savings Time can serve as a reminder to check smoke and CO alarms and change the batteries. With the development of long-life lithium battery powered alarms, the batteries have a life span of up to 10 years, so you may not need to replace this type of battery as often. The National Fire Protection Association suggests that 90% of American homes are equipped with smoke alarms but over 50% of them are not in working condition. "The key is to take a few minutes to check, test and clean your smoke and CO alarms to make sure they are functioning properly, and what better time to do this than when you change your clock for Daylight Savings Time", Tyler said.

It is important to remember that manufacturer's guidelines for smoke and CO alarm installation, testing, cleaning, and replacing batteries should be followed. However, general recommendations can be found at The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety web site www.burny.alaska.gov.

The addition of a residential fire suppression sprinkler system, in conjunction with working smoke alarms, is the best way to insure that your loved ones are safe from fire in your home. In most cases a residential fire suppression sprinkler system can be installed during home construction for about the same price as upgrading your carpet or flooring.

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