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Make A Change That Can Save Your Life

Wylie, TX– Wylie Fire-Rescue reminds citizens to change their smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries when they change their clock on Sunday, November 7.

“The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most families are sleeping”, says Wylie Fire Marshal, Steve Seddig. “Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely.”

Approximately 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in the home. The majority of these deaths occurred at night when people were asleep and in most cases in homes without working smoke alarms due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries. Having a smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside of sleeping rooms and in each bedroom, can reduce your risk of dying in a fire by providing early warning and critical seconds to escape - but only if they work.

To save lives and prevent needless injuries Wylie Fire-Rescue has joined forces with Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs for the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® campaign. The program urges all Americans to adopt a simple, lifesaving habit: changing smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries when changing clocks.

Don't wait for the low battery alarm to go off before changing the battery. Most people are not prepared to replace the battery when the low battery alarm sounds and will disconnect it - leaving them and their family needlessly unprotected.

In addition to changing batteries, here are some tips to reduce your chances of being a fire victim:

- Have a smoke detector in every sleeping area and immediately outside sleeping areas.
- Check the function of your smoke detector monthly.
- Replace smoke detectors that are over 10 years old.
- Do not disable a smoke detector for chirping. The sound is designed to alert you that the battery is low and needs immediate attention.
- Do not disable smoke detectors or remove non-working detectors without replacing them.

- Have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room, making sure that all doors and windows can be opened without a key or special effort. Have a meeting place outside, and when you are out...stay out!

Pass this life saving information on. Take the hour gained by the time change and talk about fire safety with your family and friends.

Wylie Fire-Rescue, with assistance from the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other community organizations, will install combination detectors free of charge. Do not delay! Wylie residents should call 972-429-0771 to schedule a free inspection and free fire/carbon monoxide detector installation by WFR. The goal is to install 1,000 detectors by the end of 2010.

For more information on fire safety contact Steve Seddig, Fire Marshal, at (972) 429-0795 or email steve.seddig@wylietexas.gov.

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