

# SAFETY SENSE

## Fire Safety Awareness Campaign Celebrates 15 Years Of Saving Lives

(NASPA)—The International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer urge families to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™.”

You can be a part of a lifesaving program that works annually to decrease the number of home fire deaths in the United States. Your participation is easy: when you change your clock, change your battery on October 27.

The program is called “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery,” a fifteen-year-old program from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Energizer, a leading battery and flashlight manufacturer. The program was established in 1987 to help reduce the tragic number of home fire deaths and injuries, after a disturbing trend was recognized in the mid-80s—home fire deaths and injuries were increasing despite widespread use of smoke alarms. Research showed non-working smoke alarms were often responsible. Over the years, however, real-life experience has proven that smoke alarms provide the critical extra seconds of warning to get your family out alive and help keep your responding firefighters safe—but only if the smoke alarms work.

Today in the United States, roughly 80 percent of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms, and it has been proven that a working smoke alarm cuts your chance of dying in a home fire nearly in half. That is why the IAFC, Energizer and over 5,300 fire departments across the country are urging communities nationwide to adopt this life-saving habit. Now, fifteen years later, fire departments across the country are seeing decreased numbers in home fire deaths.



**The International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer remind you to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™.”**

“A residential fire affects the life of an American family every 85 seconds, with fire deaths peaking in the winter months, says Randy Bruegman, president of the IAFC. “By encouraging families to take a proactive approach to fire safety by changing smoke alarm batteries when changing clocks with each time change, this program has the potential to truly make a difference in our battle against home fire injuries and deaths.”

Although smoke alarms are present in 94 percent of American homes, 20 percent do not work due to worn or missing batteries—that means nearly 19 million homes are at needless risk. This year, use your “extra hour” to change smoke alarm batteries and make fire safety a priority with your family by following these lifesaving tips:

- Ensure your home is in line with national fire safety standards, which recommend a mini-

num of one smoke alarm on each level of the house, one inside each bedroom and one outside each sleeping area. In addition, the IAFC recommends replacing smoke alarms every 10 years.

- Once smoke alarms have fresh batteries, make sure all family members—children in particular—know what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do should they hear it.

- Create and practice a home fire escape plan, which includes mapping two ways out and determining a meeting place away from your home.

- Prepare an emergency phone list, including numbers for the fire department and immediate relatives.

- Teach children how and when to call 911.

- For more information about Energizer, please visit [www.energizer.com](http://www.energizer.com).