



Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office  
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## Fall Back, Stay Safe: Time to Change Clocks and Replace Smoke Alarm Batteries!

**Olympia** – November 3, 2024, marked the end of Daylight-Saving Time. Please use this milestone as a reminder to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and refresh fire safety practices within your home. According to the United State Fire Administration, half of all residential fires occur between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when most residents are asleep. In 2023, Washington State experienced 40 fire fatalities in areas where smoke alarms were expected to be installed. In 82% of these incidents, either no smoke alarm was present, or it was unclear if one was installed.

Here are some fire safety tips to consider when Daylight-Saving Time ends:

1. **Change Smoke Alarm Batteries:** Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks. Ensure each level of your home and each bedroom has an alarm with a new battery.
2. **Test Smoke Alarms:** After changing the batteries, test each smoke alarm to ensure they are working. Press the test button to confirm. Per manufacturers recommendations, replace alarms every 10 years or at any sign of malfunction.
3. **Check Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Don't forget to check and replace batteries in carbon monoxide detectors, as well.
4. **Review Escape Plans:** Use this time to review your family's fire escape plan. Ensure everyone knows the routes and meeting points.
5. **Inspect Heating Equipment:** If you use space heaters or fireplaces, make sure they're in good condition and free of obstructions.
6. **Keep Exits Clear:** Ensure that all exits are accessible and not blocked by furniture or other items.
7. **Educate Family Members:** Remind everyone in the household about fire safety practices, including how to respond if a fire occurs.
8. **Create a Safety Checklist:** Compile a fire safety checklist to regularly review and maintain safety measures in your home.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

[www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/)