

## Time to Change Your Clocks AND Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

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Working smoke alarms significantly increase your chance of surviving a deadly home fire. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert scanning the air for fire and smoke.

“In order for smoke alarms to do their job, they need to have working batteries,” explained Fire Chief Larry Bentley. “Once a year, old batteries should be replaced with new batteries. When you change your clocks this weekend, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services wants everyone to take the time to install new batteries in all smoke alarms.”



In addition to changing your smoke alarm batteries this weekend, the Vaughan Fire & Rescue recommends following these simple steps to protect your life, your loved ones, and your home:

- Dust or vacuum smoke alarms when you change the batteries.
- Test alarms once a month using the test button.
- Replace the entire alarm if it's more than 10 years old or doesn't work properly when tested.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Make sure everyone in your home understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Finally, prepare and practice an escape plan so that you and your loved ones can get out of your home safely should there be a fire. Plan to meet in a place a safe distance from the fire and where first responders can easily see you.