

It's a good time to change smoke alarm batteries Clocks go back this weekend

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Staff Writer

Everyone is reminded to turn their clocks back an hour Saturday night before they go to bed as we fall back to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday.

The change is a week later than usual this year thanks to an American decision to save energy by extending daylight time to 34 weeks a year. Most Canadian provinces, including Ontario, are following the U.S. change.

A spokesperson for Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services says the time change is also the time to change smoke alarm batteries.

"While smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year, we recommend they be changed twice a year," said Fire Safety Technician Pat Woods.

"We can keep the number of deaths in Ontario declining if everybody equipped their homes with some alarms," said Fire Safety

Specialist David Ford.

The new smoke alarm law that came into effect in 2006, which made it mandatory for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, shows how serious the initiative is to save lives and reduce injuries caused by fire, said Ford.

Woods stressed that family members need to know what to do in the event of a fire in the home.

"Developing and practising a home escape plan will help in the quick, safe evacuation of all family members," said Woods. He added adults and children can ensure a safe evacuation through the practice and rehearsal of home escape plans.

Anyone who needs assistance in the selection or placement of smoke alarms is asked to contact a member of the fire service at 905-873-2601 ext. 2115 or 2118. Additional pamphlets and brochures are available at the fire department Information Centre in Georgetown Market Place.

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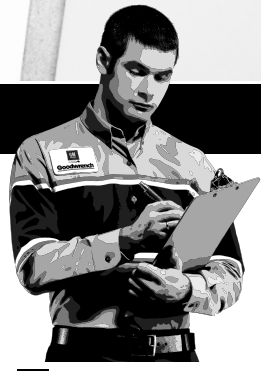
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