

Home, Lawn & Garden

Check the power when changing the time this fall

(NC)—It only adds about two minutes to your clock-changing routine, but it could save your life, and the lives of people you love. That's why it's important to check the batteries in smoke alarms when changing the clocks back on Saturday, October 30.

According to a national study commissioned by Duracell and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), almost one third of Canadians have not checked or replaced the batteries in their home smoke alarms in the last year. In fact, 18 per cent admitted never having changed the batteries.

"A smoke alarm with non-working batteries is absolutely, 100% useless," says Mike Eddy, president of the CAFC. "There

have been too many fire incidents where the batteries were either dead, or missing."

The issue for many Canadians is not remembering when they last changed or checked the batteries. Duracell and the CAFC suggest the following national clock-changing ritual "Spring forward: check... Fall backward: chuck". In the Fall, 'chuck' old batteries and replace them with fresh batteries and in the Spring 'check' to make sure batteries are working and devices are signaling properly. This can make the routine automatic from year

to year, and ensures that smoke alarms will continue to operate.

The study also found that almost 40 per cent have not replaced their smoke alarms in the last 10 years, and that 30 per cent have no idea how old their fire alarms are. Duracell and the CAFC stress that it's important that smoke alarms are clean and kept free of dust or dirt. As a standard precaution, all alarms should be replaced after 10 years of use.

For more information, please visit www.duracell.com/firesafety

Common fire hazards still present in homes

- 28 per cent do not have a fire extinguisher.
- 12 per cent have not cleaned their fireplace chimney.
- 13 per cent have left too many appliances plugged into one wall outlet.
- 5 per cent have left a burning cigarette unattended.
- 5 per cent have caught their children playing with matches or lighters.

Source: A national study commissioned by Duracell and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

- News Canada

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