

Change clock, smoke alarm batteries this weekend

30-plus fire fatalities
in Ontario already in 2008

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Don't forget to change your smoke alarm batteries when you turn your clocks ahead for daylight saving time this weekend.

That's the message from Whitchurch-Stouffville fire and emergency services.

The message is particularly urgent this year. More than 30 people in Ontario have lost their lives in fires already.

Tragedies, such as the recent fire in Hamilton that killed a mother and her three young children, could have been avoided had there been working alarms in the home.

"It is imperative residents have working smoke alarms," Fire Chief Chris Powers said.

"The goal of the department is to assist residents in ensuring that in the event of a fire, they have adequate warning to let them escape."

SHELL LUMBER PARTNERSHIP

In 2007, fire and emergency services launched its smoke alarm program in partnership with Schell Lumber. Firefighters went door to door in certain neighbourhoods to ensure residents had working smoke alarms.

Schell Lumber is continuing this partnership and the program will continue this spring.

If you need assistance with smoke alarms or have any questions, call the department at 905-640-9595.

Test or replace alarms

The Office of the Fire Marshal of Ontario says:

- test your smoke alarms monthly
- change batteries every year or as recommended by the manufacturer
- if your alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones
- every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas





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