



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Change your clock, check your smoke alarm: Daylight saving ends April 6

Daylight saving ends on the first Sunday in April: a good reminder to change your smoke alarm batteries at the same time as your turn back your clocks.

“A working smoke alarm can provide a vital early warning to occupants when there is a house fire,” said Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble.

“It’s a very cheap safety measure, with alarms costing only a few dollars,” he said.

In 2007 there were 3,268 recorded residential fires in Victoria, in which 19 people were killed.

House fires are more common in winter and most occur between 9pm and 6am.

Smoke alarms are not just “set-and-forget” devices. Victoria’s fire agencies recommend that you:

- Test smoke alarms regularly by pressing the test button (Use a broom or mop handle if they’re out of easy reach).
- Dust the alarm with a vacuum cleaner brush.
- Replace the battery annually with a long-lasting alkaline battery.
- Install a smoke alarm outside the sleeping areas on every level of a house.
- Install a smoke alarm in bedrooms if people sleep with their doors closed.

Choose a smoke alarm that meets Australian Standards. This will be clearly indicated on the packaging. The CFA now urges all householders to supplement their existing ionisation smoke alarms with photo-electric alarms.

Remember that sound sleepers and people who have recently used alcohol or medications may not be awakened by a smoke alarm. Young children may sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm.

Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery is an annual fire safety campaign promoting the importance of working smoke alarms. For further information visit www.changeyourbattery.com.au

