



Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

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Smoke alarms play a critical role in saving lives. They increase your chance of survival in a fire by more than half.

Code requires a working smoke alarm on every level of your residence. If you are a renter, your landlord is responsible for making sure there are working smoke alarms. The best placement for smoke alarms is on the ceiling at least 4 inches from the wall. If the smoke alarm is placed on the wall, it should be between 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling. Smoke alarms should be placed in the hallway outside bedrooms as well as inside bedrooms and common living areas.

Cob webs or dust can cause false alarms. Vacuum the alarm off periodically. Test the detector at least once a month and replace batteries at least once a year. Or even a recommended practice is to change your batteries when you change your clocks. A chirping alarm means the battery is low and needs to be changed. Alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

West Metro Fire-Rescue District does have a limited supply of detectors and batteries available to the citizens of New Hope and Crystal. If you do not have smoke detectors or are in need of assistance in installing or replacing batteries in a smoke detector, please contact the Fire Prevention Staff at 763 537-2323 extension 2003 or 2004.