



Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District
"Protecting Life and Property through Quality Service"

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2015

Subject: "Change your clock, check your smoke alarm"

Sunday, November 1 is Daylight Saving Time, and the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District would like to remind you that when you change your clocks back one hour, it is also a great time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure that they are working. 50 Oregonians perished in structure fires in 2014, the most since 2008. Having working smoke alarms in your home improves your chances of surviving a fire by more than 50%.

To test your alarms properly:

1. Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
2. When replacing batteries, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct battery to use.
3. Always retest alarms after installing new batteries
4. Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.
5. Inspect your smoke alarms to determine if they are 10 years old or older, and replace any unit 10 years old or older. Look for a date on the back of the alarm. If there is no date, your alarm is more than 10 years old and should be replaced. Carbon monoxide alarms are typically good for 5-7 years, depending on the manufacturer.

6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.

Additional safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- Never disconnect or remove batteries from smoke alarms for other uses.
- Use the smoke alarm's hush feature to silence nuisance alarms.
- Make a home fire escape plan and practice it with family members.

If you need new smoke alarms, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District has battery-powered units available free of charge. We will be going door-to-door with the Red Cross on Saturday, November 14 to check smoke alarms and install new ones if needed in the north area of town. Also, if you need help with maintenance issues, we may be able to help with that as well. Please call 541-549-0771 for more information.