



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Waco Fire Department Urges Citizens to Check Smoke Alarm Batteries for Daylight Saving Time This Weekend

WACO, TEXAS (March 12, 2021) – As daylight saving time approaches this weekend, the Waco Fire Department encourages all citizens to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms in conjunction with setting their clocks forward one hour. Changing clocks twice a year serves as a valuable reminder to replace the batteries in our smoke alarms.

Smoke alarms are critical in keeping your family safe by alerting them of a fire when in its early stages. Even more importantly, they can alert us to a fire when we are at our most vulnerable, asleep at night. Their batteries should be checked every month for correct functionality.

According to the United States Fire Administration, as of March 11, 2021, this country has experienced 677 civilian fatalities from fires this year. Forty-one of those were in Texas, occurring in the home. A large majority occurred in single-family residences with no working smoke alarms. It was found that the smoke alarms were not functioning because of missing and/or dead batteries.

Fire Chief Gregory Summers said, “The presence of a working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire. Checking your smoke alarm when setting your clocks for daylight saving time gives our residents an easy reminder and an added measure of fire safety.”

The Waco Fire Department will begin going door-to-door, Saturday, March 13, in various Waco neighborhoods with their “LifeSaver” Smoke Alarm Program ensuring residents have working smoke alarms. In addition, on Sunday, March 14, Waco Fire representatives will be at the H-E-B on South Valley Mills (1821 South Valley Mills Drive) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. registering residents for installations of free smoke alarms. Residents may also visit waco-texas.com/fire and fill out a request for a scheduled visit to check smoke alarms.

Best practices on how to test/replace batteries on your smoke alarm:

- Test your smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to ten years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- Smoke alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
 - Lift, twist, or remove the cover.
 - Replace the battery with a brand-new one. (Most machines use 9-volt batteries.)
 - Close and snap the detector back into place.
 - Press the test button to make sure it's working properly. (You should hear a beep or chirp sound.)

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