



## HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! HFD REMINDS CITIZENS TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN THEIR SMOKE DETECTORS**

As we set our clocks for Day Light Saving Time this weekend, the Houston Fire Department, along with the International Association of Fire Chiefs ("IAFC") and Energizer encourage citizens to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they set their clocks forward.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, although most homes have smoke detectors, they are not working, with 65 percent of home fire deaths in 2000-2004 resulted in homes with no smoke detector or non-working smoke detectors.

The most common reason cited and seen by the Houston Fire Department for non-working smoke detectors is a dead or missing battery.

Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends replacing your smoke detector every ten years.

"Working smoke detectors provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape," said Fire Chief Phil Boriskie. "This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors."

For additional safety information, citizens may visit the HFD website at [www.houstonfire.org](http://www.houstonfire.org)

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*Media - HFD representatives will be available this afternoon for sound bites and interviews about this topic. Please, call Alicia White in the HFD Public Affairs Office at 713-495-7906 to schedule.*

Print PSA material may be found on the Energizer website at [http://www.energizer.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/pdf/learning\\_center/Keep\\_Safe\\_Keep\\_Going\\_Site/PTIA/GraphicsSlick.pdf](http://www.energizer.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/pdf/learning_center/Keep_Safe_Keep_Going_Site/PTIA/GraphicsSlick.pdf)

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