



The St. Pete Beach Fire Rescue would like to remind you that daylight savings time is Sunday March 11, 2018. When you change your clocks for daylight savings time, it is the perfect opportunity to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

When smoke alarms fail, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and MAINTAINED play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

As most fatal fires occur at night, by taking the time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms, you can sleep better knowing that you've provided one of the best ways to alert those in your household should a fire occur. Remember, almost every day a smoke alarm saves someone's life.



#### Smoke Alarm Tips:

- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms twice a year (when you change your clocks for daylight savings time)
- Never remove the batteries from smoke alarms, not even temporarily
- Regularly vacuum or dust smoke alarms to keep them working properly
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Don't paint over smoke alarms
- Practice family fire drills so everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm goes off

If you have any questions regarding the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms, or if you have any other questions about how to protect yourself and your household in the event of a fire, please feel free to contact the Bureau of Fire Prevention at 363-9206.

# Smoke Alarms at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



## SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

## FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards

# 9-volt Battery Safety

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.



## The problem

- » 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- » It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- » Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

## Storing 9-volt batteries

- » Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- » Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- » Store batteries standing up.
- » 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer. Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

## Disposal

- » 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- » 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- » To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- » Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

## 9-VOLT BATTERY STORAGE

Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)