

# media release



## Change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries

Wednesday 30 March 2022

With daylight saving ending this weekend, South Australia's fire services are reminding the community to change their smoke alarm batteries as they wind back their clocks by one hour.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Community Engagement Officer, Ryan Baohm, said changing smoke alarm batteries as daylight saving ends is an Australian tradition that's too important to ignore.

"Statistics show that on average, more people die nationally in domestic house fires, than all the natural disasters like bushfires and flood per year. Nearly half of all significant house fires in South Australia involve homes where smoke alarms had been disabled, or the batteries had gone flat."

"The majority of fatalities in house fires are caused by smoke inhalation. Getting an early warning from your smoke alarm is critical to your safety, changing smoke alarm batteries is the best way to give you and your family the earliest opportunity to evacuate safely."

"If you have elderly family or neighbours living alone, offer to help them out by fitting new batteries for them," MFS Community Engagement Officer Baohm said.

MFS and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters respond to hundreds of house fires across South Australia each year that cause destruction and heartache.

CFS Executive Director of Operations Brett Loughlin said the early warning provided by smoke alarms can easily change the outcome of a house fire.

"Working smoke alarms save lives. They allow you time to evacuate your home safely and call Triple Zero. This not only saves lives, it also provides firefighters an opportunity to respond earlier and minimise damage to your property."

"For the small cost of new batteries, you're investing in your family's safety and protecting your home", Mr Loughlin said.

Thorough tips, information and advice about smoke alarms is available on the MFS website [here](#).

*Smoke alarms can be powered by either disposable or long-life batteries (subject to [SA Legislation](#)) or they can be hard-wired into the 240 volt power supply. **Hard-wired smoke alarms (mains powered) also have back-up batteries.** The back-up battery can be a 9 volt disposable battery, a long-life battery or a constantly recharging battery. (Check with the manufacturer's instructions.)*

**For media enquiries telephone the  
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**Further information:**

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