

City of Bristol Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Changing Clocks, Changing Batteries

As the time change scheduled for Sunday, November 4, 2012 approaches, the Bristol Tennessee Fire Department would like to remind the community to not only change their clock settings, but to also change the batteries in their flashlights, portable radios, and most importantly, their smoke detectors.

Each year, approximately 3,000 people in the U.S. die from fires in the home. Many of these fires occur at night while people who are sleeping unknowingly inhale toxic gases and smoke. More than half of the fires occur in houses without a properly operating smoke detector. Fire deaths in homes equipped with smoke detectors are most often the result of either dead (or removed) batteries or an insufficient number of smoke detectors. The risk of death from residential fires is cut significantly when you change your detector batteries every 6 months.

Asst. Chief Jack Spurgeon of the Bristol Fire Department suggests testing smoke detectors monthly to make certain they are in working order. Also, smoke detectors should have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listing mark for quality. In addition to keeping smoke alarm batteries fresh, a fire escape plan will increase one's chances of surviving a fire.

The Bristol Fire Department's Home SAFE (Safety Analysis for Emergencies) Program increases public safety preparedness for emergencies and includes information and tips for fire safety planning. The program is voluntary for Bristol's residents and provides a home safety inspection including a complete walk through of your home by highly trained Bristol firefighters. Fire Department personnel will focus on heating equipment, fireplaces, electrical panels, laundry rooms, and other locations within the home where general fire safety suggestions may be offered. Smoke detectors will be tested and if the home does not have a smoke detector one may be installed. There is no cost for this service. You may contact the Bristol Tennessee Fire Department at 423-989-5701 to make an appointment for an inspection.

Remember, a little preparation can go a long way in protecting your family and property.

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