



# St. George Fire Protection District

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: March 7, 2011

### **SEEMS LIKE WE JUST TURNED THE CLOCKS BACK!**

We go back on Daylight Savings Time at 01:00 AM (“Spring forward” to 2:00 AM.) Sunday morning, March 13th. So, Saturday evening before going to bed, set your clocks ahead one hour. Most computers and cell phones will perform this task automatically.

That means it’s time to check the battery in your home smoke detectors. If you haven’t changed the battery since last spring, we recommend you change it, even if it still tests “OK.” There is no need to throw away 9 volt batteries that may still test “OK.” Keep them for other applications. That way, you will never be tempted to “borrow” the smoke detector battery; plus the freshest 9 volt battery in your house will be in the most important place for your family’s safety.

Note: Some newer smoke detectors have ten-year lithium batteries. These need not be replaced if they still test OK. However, ALL smoke detectors should be tested at least once a month. If your smoke detector is over ten years old, it’s time to think about replacing the whole unit, not just the battery. Nothing lasts forever, and the internal sensors can lose sensitivity over time. Manufacturers recommend a ten to twelve year replacement cycle. Remember, pushing the test button only tests the battery, not the sensor.

Also, even though your newer home has “hard-wired” smoke detectors, if the detector also emits an alarm from the ceiling mounted unit (instead at a central alarm panel or remote alerting device), it probably has a back-up battery. These can be a little difficult to get to, and may require removing the detector from the ceiling mounting plate. Read the unit’s directions or look up the model number on the internet for more details.

One final safety tip – Please use a UL approved stepladder or stepstool to reach these things on your ceiling. The most frequently mis-used platform from which to perform these checks or change light bulbs is a kitchen chair. Please Don’t!