

Safety Tips: Alarms

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

Every 2 hours, someone in the United States dies in a fire. The majority of these deaths occur in homes, usually at night after people have gone to bed. Between 1999 and 2002, unintentionally non-fire carbon monoxide poisonings associated with consumer products killed an average of about 140 people each year. These horrifying scenarios are even more disturbing when you realize that many of these deaths could have been avoided if these homes would have had a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm.

El Paso Fire Officials would like to remind the El Paso Community that when they change the time on their clocks (Spring Forward/Fall Back), to also change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

In addition to replacing batteries in smoke and CO alarms, Fire Officials recommend testing them monthly. Smoke alarms should be placed on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Battery backup is an important consideration for those alarms that are powered by your home's electrical system.

Also, some manufacturers recommend that consumers replace smoke alarms every 10 years and replace CO alarms every 5 years. The sensors in these devices can degrade because of environmental contamination and from age.

Working smoke and CO alarms can help protect your family from a fire or CO hazard in your home. Take the time to check that your alarms are working properly. That simple step could save your life.

Smoke Alarm: Most fires in the home happen between 8:00 at night and 8:00 in the morning. More deadly fires occur between 12:00 midnight and 4:00 in the morning when people are asleep. Most people die in fires from the gases, heat and smoke that come from fire.

- Check Smoke alarms once a month.
- Change batteries twice a year, when you change the time on your clocks.
- Place smoke detectors in each level of the home.
- Do not paint a smoke detector.