



Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® Fact Sheet

Fire Facts

- 96 percent of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, but 19 percent of all homes do not have at least one working smoke alarm, mostly due to missing or dead batteries.
- Nuisance activations were the leading cause of disabled smoke alarms. Cooking fumes and steam can cause a smoke alarm to sound. Nuisance alarms can be prevented by moving the smoke alarm farther from kitchens or bathrooms. A chirping smoke alarm means the battery is dying.
- On average, home fires kill 540 children ages 14 and under each year
- Children ages 5 and under are 1.5 times as likely as the population as a whole to die in home fires.
- Seniors age 75 and older are three times more likely to die in a home fire.
- 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. are the peak alarm times for home fire deaths – when people tend to be asleep and the house is likely to be dark.
- Approximately every 3 hours a home fire death occurs somewhere in the nation.
- 40 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms.
- Only 23 percent of U.S. families have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan to ensure they could escape quickly and safely. Developing a family emergency escape plan can be crucial to everyone's safety.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. They should be replaced at least every 10 years.

Carbon Monoxide Facts

- Carbon monoxide is sometimes called the “the silent killer.” It is colorless, odorless and tasteless. The National Safety Council reports that almost 700 people die each year as a result of unintentional poisoning by gases or vapors in non-fire situations. Carbon monoxide was involved in the majority of these deaths.

Flashlight Facts

- In a study of 1997-1998 fatal home candle fires, candles were used for light in the absence of electrical power in one-third of the incidents.
- Candles are the third leading cause of injuries from home fires, following cooking and heating.
- When your power goes out, use flashlights instead of candles.
- Use the time change to check the batteries in your flashlights.

Sources: International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association, Sense of Smell Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Department of Health and Human Services