

Firefighters know the importance of home fire safety. That's why the [King County Fire Marshal Division](#) encourages you to participate in the annual home fire safety program called:

## Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery!

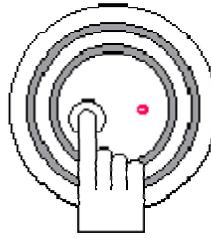
Sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer brand batteries, the program urges you to adopt a simple lifesaving habit: **Change all of your Smoke Alarm batteries when you change your clocks back to Standard Time each Fall.**

Protecting your home is simple:  
**Change, Check, Count, Clean!**



### ● **Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries!**

Your Fire Marshal encourages you to change **Smoke Alarm** batteries at least once each year. An easy way to remember is to change these batteries when you change your clock back to Standard Time each Fall. Replace old batteries with fresh, high quality batteries to keep your Smoke Alarms ready to protect you all year-long.



### **Check Your Smoke Alarms!**

After inserting fresh batteries in your Smoke Alarm, make sure the Alarm is working by activating the safety test button. Your Fire Marshal recommends that you test all of your Smoke Alarms at least once each month. If you have any doubt regarding the working condition of a Smoke Alarm, we recommend you replace it.



### **Count Your Smoke Alarms!**

You should have a properly functioning Smoke Alarm in every sleeping room -and- in the hallway directly adjacent to those rooms. If sleeping rooms are on an upper level, a Smoke Alarm needs to be installed in the center of the ceiling directly above the interior stairway.

It's best to have at least one working Smoke Alarm on every level of your home, including the basement and family room. To assure optimal protection and avoid false alarms, your Smoke Alarm must be mounted properly. You'll find simple instructions included with every Smoke Alarm you purchase. Should questions remain, we encourage you to call us at 206-296-6675.



### **Clean Your Smoke Alarms!**

Help your Smoke Alarm remain sensitive and ready to protect you by gently using a vacuum cleaner once a month to remove dust and cobwebs. If your Smoke Alarms have been accidentally painted or contaminated, replacement may be necessary.

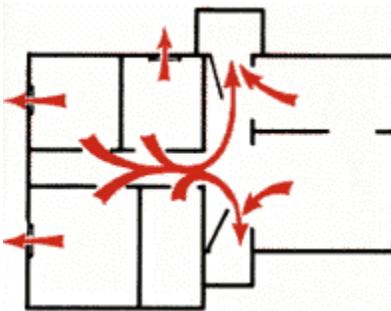
To best protect your home and family, we also suggest...

### ● **Retire your old Smoke Alarms!**

Smoke Alarms work every minute of every day. After millions of sensing cycles, they should be retired. **Replace your Smoke Alarms with new devices at least every 10 years.**

### ● **Plan and Practice Your Escape!**

Children are at increased risk of dying in a home fire because they often become scared and confused when a fire erupts. Make sure your children recognize the sound of your home's Smoke Alarm and teach them to respond instinctively to its signal.



Create at least two different escape routes from every room and practice them with the entire family. Be sure all family members know the lifesaving practice of crawling below the dangerously thick smoke and intense heat of a fire.

All capable members of the family must learn how to open windows and remove screens. Purchase, plan and practice using a collapsible emergency escape ladder that can be stored inside, near upper floor windows. Realism is essential in your family's practice, as is your clear designation of a meeting place for everyone to gather outside the home in case of a fire or other emergency. Remember, this may be the only practice and discussion you will have before tragedy strikes!

When a fire occurs, don't delay! **Get out quick and stay out!!** Escape first, closing doors behind you if possible. Quickly gather at your meeting place and then notify the Fire Department by calling 9-1-1 from a safe location.

Your Firefighters are specially trained and equipped to rescue your family and pets, as well as to protect your possessions. Help your Firefighters by remaining together outside the home and directing them to endangered family or valuables.



## ● Install Fire Extinguishers!

Install at least one fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and know how to use it. We recommend multi- or all-purpose fire extinguishers that are listed by and carry the [mark](#) of an accredited testing agency such as [Underwriters Laboratory](#). **Read all instructions carefully** and mount the fire extinguishers for easy access. Make sure adult members of your family know the proper use as well as the limitations of these important fire safety tools!



## ● Change Your Flashlight Batteries!

Make sure your emergency flashlights work when you need them by using fresh high-quality batteries. It is a good idea to keep a working flashlight and a whistle near your bed, in the kitchen, basement and family room. You can use them to signal for help or direct rescuers in the event of a fire or other emergency.

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We hope this simple list of tips from the [King County Fire Marshal Division](#) will help keep your family safe. Please remember:

## **Fire Prevention -- it's your job!**

If you have any fire safety questions just give me a call:

John Klopfenstein, King County Fire Marshal

206-296-7071