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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Change Your Clocks, Check Your Batteries & Practice Your Escape Plan!

Sunday, March 12th at 2am is the official time in which your clocks will need to “spring forward” an hour. Many people choose to set them forward Saturday evening before going to bed. The “fall back” and “spring forward” time changes are great reminders of changes and checks that need to happen twice a year: clocks and batteries! Also, keep in mind to check your batteries during a severe storm or prolonged power outages.

Working smoke alarms save lives. Test your alarms monthly to be sure they work properly. Typically, 9-volt batteries should be tested once per month and changed once per year, while ten year lithium batteries just need to be tested on a monthly basis to ensure they are working properly. To easily remember how old your lithium batteries are, mark the date of installment with a permanent marker and that way you’ll know when they’re ten years old and need replacing. Most smoke alarms should be replaced after ten years. It’s a good idea to write the expiration date on your smoke alarm too. Refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for specific directions.

This is also a great time to practice your fire escape plan. Get the family together, and if you haven’t already done so, plan your escape! Simply draw out the floor plan of your home, identify two ways out of every room, establish a meeting place outside, and practice it twice a year. Make sure that every family member knows how to get out of every room and knows where your family meeting place is located outside. Make this a fun event, children practice fire drills at school so why not in the home?

Lake Stevens Fire reminds you to take time to be safe and enjoy the increased daylight hours throughout the spring and summer seasons!

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Photo: Firefighter Chester taking time to check the smoke alarm battery.