

Spring Forward, Review Safety Checklist



Time to Change the Clocks

Daylight Saving Time begins every year on the second Sunday in March. Clocks are set forward one hour, except in Hawaii and most of Arizona. Daylight saving time begins **Sunday, March 10, 2019**.

It's also a good time to review the following spring safety checklist:

Smoke Alarms

Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a "chirping" sound, replace it immediately.

Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom and in the common areas on each floor of a home. Mount them at least 10 feet from the stove to reduce false alarms, less than 12 inches from the ceiling and away from windows, doors and ducts.

Smoke alarms can be interconnected wirelessly. That means, when one sounds, they all sound.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. The safety tips for CO detectors mirror those of smoke alarms: change the batteries, test them and interconnect them, if possible.

Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) are free and clear of snow or debris.

Family Emergency Plan

Every family should have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members.

Have a home and car emergency kit. An emergency kit should include one gallon of water per day for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines. Visit the FEMA website for a complete list.

The emergency plan also should include:

- A communications plan to outline how your family members will contact one another and where to meet if it's safe to go outside
- A shelter-in-place plan if outside air is contaminated; FEMA recommends sealing windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting
- A getaway plan including various routes and destinations in different directions

Also, make sure your first aid kit is updated.

Get Rid of Unwanted Medicines

Take unwanted or expired medicines to a prescription drop box or take-back event near you, so you can send your unwanted medications to be safely destroyed.