



STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

GROVER P. INGLE  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DOVER OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS

**News Release**

**March 10, 2011**

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The Delaware State Fire Marshal reminds all residents to test their smoke alarms in their homes and replace the batteries in their smoke alarms to coincide with the changing of their clocks for Daylight Savings Time this upcoming weekend. Change your clock, change your batteries.

Smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms detect the smoke from a fire in a home and alert the occupants by sounding an alarm. Without properly operating smoke alarms, homes can fill with smoke while the occupants are sleeping resulting in carbon monoxide poisoning. The risk of serious injury or death increases in homes without properly operating smoke alarms.

Last year 15 people died from fires in the State of Delaware. Of those 15 deaths, 14 people died inside dwellings for which only 2 dwellings were determined to be equipped with operating smoke alarms. So far this year, two people have died in fires and neither of the two homes involved had properly operating smoke alarms.

Residents should also have a fire escape plan and practice the fire escape plan monthly. A fire escape plan should be shared with everyone residing in the home. The plan must include a gathering location safely outside the home where everyone can report to. Never go back into a burning home. Get out! Stay out!

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