

Maryland State Fire Marshal
News Release

Martin O'Malley
Governor

William E. Barnard
State Fire Marshal



**STATE FIRE MARSHAL WILLIAM E. BARNARD
RECOMMENDS
“CHANGE YOUR CLOCK – CHANGE YOUR BATTERY”**

PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND (November 2, 2011) – In anticipation of daylight savings time ending in the early morning hours of November 6th, the State Fire Marshal is urging Marylanders to **“Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery”** in both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in their homes. Recognizing that working smoke alarms and CO detectors double a family’s chance of surviving a home fire and/or an unsafe carbon monoxide level, the State Fire Marshal says Daylight Savings Time is a great opportunity for families to change the batteries. *“This simple step can help us avoid tragedies in the place we feel the most secure – our homes.”*

Along with working smoke alarms and CO detectors, home escape plans are another way Marylanders can avoid injury or death in their homes. By identifying at least two different escape routes, families can practice the plan together – before an emergency strikes. Practicing the plan helps educate younger children to the danger of hazardous situations and the importance of recognizing that the sound of a smoke alarm or CO detector signals a potential hazard in the home. *“Changing the battery in your smoke alarms and CO detectors, along with developing and practicing a home escape plan, are two of the best ways to protect your loved ones and yourself from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning,”* stated Fire Marshal Barnard.

Please observe the overhead electronic signs as you travel throughout the state this weekend. The Office of the State Fire Marshal and all Marylanders thank the Maryland Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration for assisting to spread the word about this life saving reminder.

For more information on fire and life safety, log on to our website at:
www.firemarshal.state.md.us.

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