



For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2016

## Spring Forward Sunday!

Change  
Your Clock



Test Your  
Smoke Alarm



March 13 begins Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. “Spring forward this Sunday by setting your clocks ahead one hour and test your home smoke alarms and change the batteries. Home fires are preventable and a working smoke alarm can save your life,” said Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, two thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarm or a malfunctioning alarm, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

### The Shelby County Office of Preparedness suggests these smoke alarm safety tips:

- **Install:** “Hear the beep, where you sleep!” Install smoke alarms in bedrooms, outside sleeping areas, on each floor, and on every level of the home. Interconnected smoke alarms (when one sounds, they all sound) give the best protection.
- **Test:** Push the “test” button once a month to ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- **Change Batteries:** Change smoke alarm batteries every six months or sooner if you hear the “chirp” indicating the battery is low. Some smoke alarms now offer a 10-year, never-replace battery.
- **Replace:** Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.

If you have questions about smoke alarm safety or if you cannot afford one, please contact your local fire station.

### Resources:

National Fire Protection Association, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

United States Fire Administration, [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

Shelby County Office of Preparedness, [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us)

End of Release