



## Marion County Board of County Commissioners

### Fire Rescue

2631 SE Third St.  
Ocala, FL 34471  
Phone: 352-291-8000  
Fax: 352-291-8098

Contact: Peveeta Persaud, Public Education Specialist, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Office: 352-291-8064 ▪ Cell: 352-361-7355 ▪ Pager: 352-898-3570 E-mail: [peveeta.persaud@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:peveeta.persaud@marioncountyfl.org)

## **CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS; CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES THIS SUNDAY**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.** (Nov. 3, 2011) – When clocks “fall back” one hour this Sunday, Nov. 6, Marion County Fire Rescue encourages citizens to also change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths from 2005 to 2009 occurred in homes where there were either no smoke alarms at all or the ones in place did not work. Sadly, most smoke alarms don’t work because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries or poor maintenance.

MCFR’s “Get Alarmed” smoke alarm program is an aggressive initiative that provides one dual-mode smoke alarm to citizens who cannot afford to purchase their own and installs it free of charge. Dual-mode smoke alarms feature two smoke detection technologies: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization technology reacts better to fast, flaming fires whereas photoelectric alarms respond better to slow, smoldering fires. MCFR recommends the dual-mode alarms to provide double the protection.

Fees collected from illegal backyard burning fund MCFR’s “Get Alarmed” smoke alarm program. For more information on the program, call 352-291-8000, and remember to follow these safety tips:

- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year, when the time changes or when the low battery alarm chirps.
- Test and inspect each smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it’s working properly.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never “borrow” a battery from your smoke alarms because you will likely forget to replace it.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home, inside every sleeping area and in common areas such as hallways and living rooms.
- Mount smoke alarms four to 11 inches from the ceiling on walls or on the ceiling.
- Don’t install smoke alarms near windows, in corners, outside doors or near air ducts where drafts might interfere.
- Brainstorm a fire escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year, identifying two exits from every room and establishing a safe meeting place outside.

###

*“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”*