



The Ramsey Fire Department would like to remind residents to test their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and check the batteries in each when they move their clocks ahead to start daylight saving time Sunday

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in more than 50% of home fires that were reported to fire departments in the US between 2014-2018, residents were alerted to the danger by a working smoke alarm. Almost 60 % of home fire deaths occurred in homes without properly functioning smoke alarms or no smoke alarms at all during the same time.

To keep residents homes safe and prevent fires or carbon monoxide poisoning, Ramsey Fire Department recommends these safety tips:

- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years or older. That is because the sensor becomes less sensitive over time. Check the manufacturer's date of your smoke alarms and follow the instructions.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month, pressing the test button to ensure the alarm functions properly.
- CO alarms should be replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Practice your two-minute escape plan. Make sure everyone in your household can get out in less than two minutes — the amount of time you may have to escape a burning home before it is too late. Include at least two ways to get out of every room and select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home. Some suggestions for a meeting place might be your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone can meet.

For more information on smoke and carbon monoxide alarm safety, contact the Ramsey Fire Department at 763-427-4452