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**DOES YOUR SMOKE ALARM WORK?
North Metro Fire Rescue Asks Citizens to Change Smoke Alarm Batteries**

Northglenn/Broomfield, CO—It's Daylight Savings weekend (November 1, 2009) and citizens are encouraged to change home smoke detector batteries, in fact North Metro has some alarming facts to share! According to a survey conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), they estimate that approximately 16 million homes in the U.S. have smoke alarms that do not work.

These smoke alarms could work properly—if they had the proper maintenance by their home owners. However, due to missing batteries or dead batteries, these smoke alarms have been rendered ineffective.

“While it is great to know that most people have installed alarms in their homes, it is frustrating to learn that these life-saving warning devices aren't being maintained,” said Wendy Forbes, Public Information Officer at North Metro Fire Rescue. “Testing smoke alarms once a month and switching batteries when we change our clocks can make all the difference in escaping your home during a fire emergency.”

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The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has found that people have a 51% greater chance in successfully surviving a fire with working smoke alarms that are properly installed. Some additional installation tips include:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Be sure that a smoke alarm is near sleeping areas.
- Position wall-mounted smoke alarms 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling.
- Position ceiling-mounted smoke alarms at least 4 inches away from the nearest wall.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors or forced-air registers where drafts could interfere with operation.
- To avoid false alarms—do not locate alarms where cooking-fumes, steam (i.e. shower), or automobile exhaust may trigger it.
- Be sure to maintain your hard-wired smoke alarms by using the battery back-up feature.

Once your smoke alarms are installed it is up to you to keep them working.

Remembering to test these alarms is as easy as making a note on your home calendar.

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About North Metro Fire Rescue District

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 103,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.