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### (S.D.)-Fire Marshal Reminds Residents To Change Clocks, Check Alarms

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/31/2013 09:37 AM



(PIERRE, S.D.)—Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend, and South Dakota State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman is asking residents to check their smoke alarms while they change their clocks.

Daylight Saving Time officially ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. That's when clocks are actually set back one hour.

Merriman says, "When you go around home changing the clocks, it only takes a few seconds more to make sure your smoke alarms are working. This is a good time to push that test button, and if necessary, change the batteries. In the event of a home fire, smoke alarms can be the difference between a tragic death or survival for you and your family."

With the arrival of November, Merriman says it isn't too early to begin talking about fire safety during the holidays either. "Holiday lighting, the use of candles, increased cooking activity in the kitchen, all those things illustrate the spirit of the holiday, but they also increase potential for fires and fire deaths during what should be a season of celebration," he said.

It's also a good time for a family conversation about fire safety, how to leave the home in the event of a fire, and how to maintain or restore contact with other family members during and after a fire.

--South Dakota Department of Public Safety