

Sample Letter to the Editor

(Date)

Dear Editor:

The **(Insert Fire Department)** has a simple but powerful reminder for all members of our community this weekend. When you change your clocks for daylight-saving time, change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and please remind your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Twenty-three years ago, Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) recognized a disturbing trend that many home fire fatalities were taking place in homes without working smoke alarms. So the *Change Your Clock Change Your Battery*[®] program was developed to help reduce this number. Along with thousands of fire departments nationwide, *Energizer* and the IAFC have been reminding communities to check and change their smoke alarm batteries and to make sure their smoke alarms are working when they set their clocks. Additionally, it is recommended to replace smoke alarms every 10 years and have a mix of both ionization and photo electric smoke alarms to alert you to all types of home fires.

Beginning October 10, visit www.facebook.com/Energizerbunny to join the Energizer Bunny[®] Brigade and take the pledge to change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries. When you do, you'll be entered to win a home fire safety makeover and smoke detectors. And please share with your friends and families so they can join the Energizer Bunny[®] Brigade as well. A working smoke detector doubles your chance of surviving a home fire. In addition, people are encouraged to use their extra hour to help out at a local fire department. Eighty percent of fire departments are volunteer fire departments and they can often use extra hands to help with non-fire fighting related tasks. Reach out to your local fire department and see how you can help.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fire structures in half. As a **(enter years of service)**-year fire service veteran, I have witnessed first-hand the tragedy and devastation of home fires. It's even more heartbreaking when a young life is cut short. Thousands are injured and killed each year from home fires. Overall, roughly 66 percent of home fire deaths in this country occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Considering that residential fire deaths peak in winter months, it's critical to check and change your smoke alarm batteries each and every fall.

We hope you'll join our fire department, *Energizer* and the International Association of Fire Chiefs in sharing this life-saving information with your readers and encouraging them to help make a difference in our city and across the country.

Sincerely,
(Name of Fire Chief)

**Claims substantiated by the National Fire Protection Association*