Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Three minutes. That’s how much time families have on average to get out of their homes after an alarm from a smoke detector. However, those life-saving minutes only occur when detectors are fully powered and operational.

There's no better time to do it than when you're already changing your for daylight-saving time on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

The smoke alarm remains among the most important battery-powered home devices. A recent study showed that 71 percent of smoke alarms that failed to operate had missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half.

Suggested tips for smoke alarms include:

- Smoke alarms more than 10 years old need to be replaced.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button; replace immediately if they don’t respond properly when tested.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and how to respond.
- Chirping alarms are a warning sign that that battery is low and needs to be replaced.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer’s instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling.
- Smoke alarms with strobe lights and vibration devices are available for hearing impaired people.

Residents are encouraged to practice a home escape route with your family at least twice a year. Planning includes identifying all possible exists and escape routes in your home, drawing up a plan, and discussing it with all members of your household. A meeting place should be designated a safe distance outside your home where everyone can gather in the event of an emergency.