

November 2, 2017



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## Test, Review, Replace for Daylight Saving Time



Remember to fall back this weekend for the end of Daylight Saving Time.

When setting your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 5, test your smoke alarms, review your

family's emergency escape plans, and replace any emergency supplies that may expire soon.

A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all. Take care of your smoke alarms according to the manufacturer instructions, and follow these tips from the [U.S. Fire Administration](#):

- **Smoke alarm powered by a nine-volt battery** - Test the alarm monthly. Replace the batteries at least once every year. Replace the entire smoke alarm every 10 years.
- **Smoke alarm powered by a 10-year lithium (or "long-life") battery**- Test the alarm monthly. Since you cannot (and should not) replace the lithium battery, replace the entire smoke alarm according to the manufacturer's instructions and dispose of it properly at a household hazardous waste site or by sending it back to the manufacturer.
- **Smoke alarms hardwired into your home's electrical system** - Test the alarm monthly. Replace the backup battery at least once every year. Replace the entire smoke alarm every 10 years.

Review your [family emergency escape plans](#) to ensure they are up to date. Replace any [emergency supplies](#) that will expire within the next six months and use the old supplies before they expire. Some examples of items that can expire are:

- Water;
- Food;
- Prescription medications;
- First-aid supplies; and
- Batteries.

For more information on emergency plans or supplies, visit [Ready.gov](#).

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## Prepare Your Home for Winter



Last month, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) released its [winter outlook](#), which calls for a cooler and wetter than usual winter for the northern United States. As winter moves closer by the day, prepare your home now for tomorrow's bitter

cold.

Take extra steps to protect yourself and your family from the hazards that come with cold weather. You can start by:

- Cleaning and inspecting your heating equipment;
- Insulating walls, attics and water pipes, and caulking and weather stripping doors and windows;
- Installing storm windows or covering your windows with plastic;
- Clearing rain gutters;
- Checking your roof to be sure it can handle the extra weight of snow and ice; and
- Installing battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors.

According to the [U.S. Fire Administration](#), home fires occur more often in winter than any other season. Protect your home by:

- Always using a metal or heat-tempered glass screen when using your fireplace;
- Making sure your space heater has an automatic shut off (if it tips over, it shuts off); and
- Keeping snow and ice three feet away from fire hydrants to allow access in case of a fire.

The snow may seem harmless, but colder weather can be deceptively dangerous. Do not get caught in the cold. Make sure that your home and family prepare for [severe winter weather](#). To learn more, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html) and <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.

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**Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month**



November is [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month](#). This month focuses on building awareness and reaffirming the nationwide commitment to keeping power, water, transportation, and communications systems secure.

According to the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS), homeland security starts with hometown security. You can help keep our Nation's critical infrastructure secure by:

- Learning about infrastructure and its impact on our daily lives;
- Sharing stories about your efforts to support infrastructure security through websites, emails, blog posts, and social media;
- Getting involved with [Hometown Security initiatives](#) to prepare your community; and
- Following [@DHSgov](#) on Twitter. Posting infrastructure security tips and resources on social media.

We can all do our part at home, work, and in our communities by learning more about [critical infrastructure security and resilience](#).

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## Important Dates to Remember

- November 1-30: [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month](#)
- November 10 – 15: [65th Annual International Association of Emergency Managers Conference](#)
- November 29 at 12 p.m. ET: [Inclusive Community Preparedness Webinar](#)

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*Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services, or products. Please let us know about other events and services for individual and community preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting [citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov).*

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