

# MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

# Smoke Signals

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The dedicated members of the Minooka Fire Protection District strive to provide reliable emergency services, public education and awareness for our customers in a cost effective and responsible manner.



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## Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries on March 11

Smoke alarms save lives by detecting fires early and alerting residents allowing crucial time to escape. The risk of dying from a fire in a home, without working smoke alarms, is twice as high as in a home that has working smoke alarms. This is why it is important to make sure the smoke alarms are in working order.

When you change your clocks on **March 11th**, change all of the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO detectors. Give them a quick dusting, too. This keeps the sensors clean. Most hard wired smoke alarms have a back up battery because if the power goes out, you will still have a working alarm.

Most alarms installed today have a life span of about **8-10 years**. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when replacing the new alarms.

After changing the batteries, have everyone in the family practice their fire escape plan. Last one out has to do the dishes!

## Spring Into Safety When Cleaning



Before you start your spring cleaning, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) advises to take additional precautions when clearing out cupboards, closets, basements, and garages. Spending a few extra minutes to correct any potential poisoning hazards in your home could prevent serious harm — even death — for a family member or pet.

To protect children and adults from an accidental poisoning exposure during your spring clean-up, the IPC offers the following tips for poison proofing your home:

- Always read the product label first and use the product according to the label directions.
- Keep all cleaning products in their original containers with original labels. Many poisoning incidents happen when a chemical is moved into containers that kids recognize such as a water bottle or a Gatorade bottle.
- Store cleaning products up high, out of sight, and in locked cabinets.
- Keep all household cleaning products and other poisonous products separated from food products.
- Never leave a cleaning product open and unattended.
- Use cleaning products in well-ventilated areas.
- Dispose of cleaning products according to the instructions on the label or at your community chemical waste drop-off site.
- Never combine chemicals together especially if they contain bleach or other chlorine-active compounds (sodium hypochlorite). If bleach is mixed with ammonia or ammonium-based products, it will release a noxious gas called chloramine. If bleach is mixed with an acid-based product, such as a toilet bowl cleaner or lime remover, it will release chlorine gas. These types of poisonings often occur in the bathroom, in part, because many bathroom cleaners are acid-based.

Children are curious and frequently come in contact with household cleaning products. Keep the IPC phone number (**1-800-222-1222**) on all your phones to ensure precious seconds aren't delayed when dealing with a poisoning emergency.