



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

PO Box 8, Ferny Creek, Victoria 3786 **Telephone** 9755 1078 **Fax** 9755 3016

Email: secretary@sassafrascfa.org.au **Website:** www.sassafrascfa.org.au

29 March 2009

Check your smoke alarm: Daylight saving ends April 5

Daylight saving ends this Sunday ... and that means it's time to change your smoke alarm batteries.

Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble said a working smoke alarm was a cheap form of insurance, not just for property but lives.

Last year there were 13,000 house fires across Australia.

More than one in five householders remove smoke alarms due to false alarms triggered by cooking according to recent research. Many are not replaced.

"It is – to coin a phrase – a recipe for disaster," Mr Schauble said. "A working smoke alarm is not an option, it's an essential."

House fires are more common in winter and most occur between 9pm and 6am.

Victoria's fire agencies recommend that you:

- Test smoke alarms regularly by pressing the test button (Use a broom or mop handle if they're out of easy reach).
- Dust the alarm with a vacuum cleaner brush.
- Replace the battery annually with a long-lasting alkaline battery.
- Install a smoke alarm outside the sleeping areas on every level of a house.
- Install a smoke alarm in bedrooms if people sleep with their doors closed.

Choose a smoke alarm that meets Australian Standards. This will be clearly indicated on the packaging. The CFA now urges all householders to supplement their existing ionisation smoke alarms with photo-electric alarms.

Remember that sound sleepers and people who have recently used alcohol or medications may not be awakened by a smoke alarm. Young children may sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm.

