

## SAFETY NOTES

March, 2015

### DISPOSAL: Detectors and Extinguishers

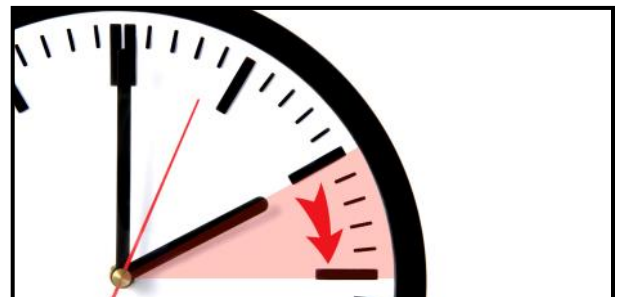


The springtime “Change Your Clock” date has long been associated with a “Check Your Detector” message as well. When you check the date of manufacture printed on the back label of your smoke detectors this March, replace any alarm that is more than 10 years old. But how do you safely dispose of the old detectors?

In the past, we could dispose smoke alarms by recycling the batteries and placing the detectors in the regular garbage can. If there was a concern with smoke detectors, it was generally because of the radioactive material in ionization detectors. Now there is recognition that, in addition to the Americium 241, the circuit boards in both ionization and photoelectric detectors and possible built-in lithium batteries should be kept away from the regular garbage stream. Therefore we are asked to take old or defective smoke detectors directly to the Household Hazardous Materials section at a Solid Waste Management site. The one at 2900 S. Geiger Blvd. is open from 7:30 AM to 5 PM seven days a week. There is no charge to residential customers for bringing in household hazardous materials.

Fire extinguishers don't last forever either! Many apartment units have extinguishers with metal handles that are serviced annually by a fire extinguisher company. Other extinguishers, particularly those in rental homes or duplexes, may have plastic handles. Those detectors should be disposed at the Solid Waste plant in Household Hazardous Materials every ten years or after each time they are used. Fire extinguishers with plastic handles cannot be recharged.

If you need to make a trip to the Solid Waste building, you may want to bring along additional hazardous materials at the same time. The list could include batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, thermometers, pool chemicals or unused medications. For further information, call 509.625.6580 or go to [spokanecitysolidwaste.org](http://spokanecitysolidwaste.org).



**BACK TO DAYLIGHT SAVINGS:  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCK  
MARCH 7TH AND  
SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR!**



## Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall

About 4.6 million Kidde disposable fire extinguishers purchased between August 2013 and November 2014 were just recalled because of a faulty valve component. There are 31 red, white or silver models involved in this recall with original prices ranging from \$18 to \$200. Go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for additional information on identifying the exact models and returning the extinguisher for a replacement unit

## Tipping Point

On average, one child dies every two weeks and one consumer is injured every 15 minutes because a piece of furniture or television falls over on them.

Parents need to be particularly aware of the dangerous combination of a television sitting on top of a dresser. Young children may use the drawers as a step stool for reaching the TV remote or another interesting object on top of the television. A new Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) study shows that a television falling from an average size dresser can fall with the force of thousands of pounds. A young child would be crushed to death. A sturdy adult would be seriously injured.

CPSC now has a campaign to “Anchor and Protect” that shows how to use inexpensive anchoring devices that will prevent blunt trauma tragedies. For rental units with restrictions on screwing bolts into walls, there are alternative pieces of low and sturdy furniture that can be used to anchor a television.

In addition to preventing a tip over tragedy, the anchoring devices could prove important in a major earthquake event. People in Eastern WA tend to be less mindful of securing bookcases, dressers, and china cabinets than those who live in Western WA or California. This is despite the 40% chance within the next 50 years of a magnitude 9 earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone running from Vancouver BC to northern California.

For more information on the danger of furniture tipping, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Tipover-Information-Center/>.



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You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at [jdoherty@spokanefire.org](mailto:jdoherty@spokanefire.org) or by calling 509.625.7058.



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