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 **(Name of Department) Urges Community to
“Change Your Clock, Test Your Smoke Alarms”***-- Daylight Savings Reminds Citizens to Revisit Fire Alarm Safety --*

**TOWN, N.C. – March XX, 2019** – It’s that time of year again! As North Carolina prepares for spring Daylight Savings, (Name of Department) reminds citizens to also test the batteries in their smoke alarms. When preparing for the clock change on March 10, 2019, individuals should use the reminder to revisit fire alarm safety on the eve of Daylight Savings.

“Every year people across the country are saved from deadly fire situations after being alerted by their smoke alarms,” said Chief Tracy Mosley, North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) program manager. “While fires are often starting small, they spread rapidly in the modern home, and the smoke alarm saves crucial minutes during an escape.”

During a house fire, individuals typically have an average of three minutes to escape the home, but it can take firefighters up to six minutes to arrive at the scene. This short time span affects reaction time, changes firefighter strategies and in most cases intensifies fire situations. During these crucial minutes, smoke alarms play a vital role in alerting residents and providing adequate time to escape the home. In fact, approximately two-thirds of home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms. When smoke alarms should have worked but failed to operate, it is usually because batteries were missing, disconnected or dead.

The National Fire Protection Association offers important tips and reminders to assist proper fire alarm safety.

* A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. The more smoke alarms you have, the quicker you’ll be alerted of an emergency, allowing more time to escape a dangerous situation.
* Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries are designed to last for up to 10 years.
* Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
* Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
* When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
* Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.

Local volunteer firefighters are counting on residents to help reduce their risk and prevent common fire hazards: Join the name of department.

***Volunteers Needed***

The name of department is currently participating in the North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) initiative, a program dedicated to increasing the number of volunteer firefighters throughout the state. More than 70 percent of all fire personnel in North Carolina are volunteers, and the majority of fire departments throughout the state are experiencing a volunteer shortage. Local fire departments need volunteers of all skill levels and abilities, people who are willing and able to respond to emergencies whenever called.

“The skills and experience gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of others,” says Chief Tracy Mosley, North Carolina VWS program manager. “Those who join their local fire departments are signing up for one of the most rewarding opportunities they’ll ever have.”

To volunteer at your local fire department, visit [www.volunteerfirenc.org](http://www.volunteerfirenc.org) or text “firefighter” to 88799 to be kept up to date about the program.

To discover ways that you or your organization can help the campaign to recruit volunteer firefighters, visit [www.weneedfirefighters.org](http://www.weneedfirefighters.org).

***About Name of Department***

Department Boilerplate

***About North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions***

A partnership of the [North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs](https://www.ncafc.com/) (NCAFC) and the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](http://www.iafc.org/) (IAFC), the North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions (NCVWS) campaign is a two-year initiative designed to address the shortage of volunteer firefighters in North Carolina. It is helping achieve a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighter workforce for 15 North Carolina fire departments and associations: Leland Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Guil-Rand Fire Department, City of Cherryville Fire Department, Roanoke Island Volunteer Fire Department, Conover Fire Department, Piney Green Volunteer Fire Department, South Salisbury Fire Department, Eno Fire-Rescue, Advance Fire Department, Gumtree Fire and Rescue, Salem District Volunteer Fire Department, New Hope Fire Department, Wake County Fire Services, Lincoln County Fire-Rescue Association, and the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs Association. NCVWS is funded by a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the NCAFC by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a model to enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

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