**Remembering to change batteries in smoke alarms: By Amita Vadlamudi**

It is very important to change batteries in the smoke detectors regularly. Many people ignore this task until the batteries go weak and the smoke detectors start sounding low battery warnings in the form of chirping noises. It is not a good idea to wait until this stage, because there will be very little battery power left for the alarm to sound loud and for adequate amount of time in the event of a fire. It is best to make it a habit of changing them every year.

Choose the same date or event each year such as the New Year’s Day or the end of day light saving time. Mark this on your calendar. Change the batteries in all the detectors at the same time. Stick a label on the detectors indicating the date of last change. Be sure to test the battery periodically, first Sunday of each month for instance. The entire smoke detector needs to be replaced every 8-10 years. Check the manufacturer’s recommendation. Leave a label on the detector when it is first installed with the installation date and the expiration date.

About the Author: Amita Vadlamudi followed a good regimen of discipline and diligence in maintaining the computers at her work. She believes that the same discipline is essential in keeping the smoke detectors functioning properly at home.