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Turn clocks back this weekend, remember to replace your smoke alarm batteries

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:51 PM

 To: [Steve Johnston](#)

October 29, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



Turn clocks back this weekend, remember to replace your smoke alarm batteries

PEACE. With the end of daylight saving time approaching on Sunday, November 1, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, who is also the State Fire Marshal, reminds families to practice this life-saving habit: **When you change your clock this weekend for the end of daylight saving time, remember to change the battery in your smoke alarm.**

As many families continue to work and take classes from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Safe Kids North Carolina team has heard reports of teachers saying they are hearing smoke alarm batteries making beeping noises in the background during school sessions and meetings. This could be an indicator that it is time to change your smoke alarm batteries.

“Checking your smoke alarm is a very simple step. It only takes a few minutes and it could potentially be the difference between life and death,” said Commissioner Causey. “Smoke alarms cut the chances of dying in a fire in half, but they need to be in working condition in order to do their job.”

If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), families have about two minutes to get out of their homes once their smoke alarm sounds due to fire. However, those life-saving minutes only occur when alarms are fully powered and operational.

So far this year, 94 people in North Carolina have died because of fire. In many of those instances, a working smoke alarm was not present in the home.

The NFPA reports three out of every five home fire deaths across the nation resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Of those, in fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, more than half of them had missing or disconnected batteries after nuisance alarms, such as the alarm going off during cooking. Dead batteries caused one-quarter of the smoke alarm failures.

In addition to changing or checking your smoke alarm battery, residents should take note of the following fire preparedness tips:

- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home outside sleeping areas. If you keep bedroom doors shut, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.
- Prepare and practice an escape plan – know at least two ways to get out of a room, crawl low under smoke and plan where to meet outside.
- Keep smoke alarms clean by regularly vacuuming over and around it. Dust and debris can interfere with its operation.
- Install smoke alarms away from windows, doors, or ducts that can interfere with their operation.
- Never remove the battery from or disable a smoke alarm. If your smoke alarm is sounding “nuisance alarms,” try locating it further from kitchens or bathrooms.

For more information on how to check smoke alarm batteries or have an alarm installed, contact your local fire department.

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order to Strengthen Eviction Prevention and Help Renters Stay in Their Homes

This week Governor Roy Cooper issued [Executive Order No. 171](#) to strengthen eviction protections to help North Carolina renters stay in their

homes. With COVID-19 case counts increasing and many people continuing to work and learn remotely, preventing evictions is critical to the state's fight against this virus.

The economic toll of COVID-19 has left thousands of families struggling to make ends meet. According to a report from the National Council of State Housing Agencies, approximately 300,000 – 410,000 households across North Carolina are currently unable to pay rent.

Last month, the Center for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) put a temporary residential eviction moratorium into effect nationwide from September 4 through December 31, 2020. The CDC order protects residential tenants from eviction for nonpayment of rent. However, confusion over who this order protects has caused inconsistent enforcement and unwarranted evictions in some parts of the state.

[Executive Order No. 171](#) requires landlords to make residential tenants aware of their rights under the CDC Order. For eviction actions commencing after Executive Order No. 171, landlords must give residents the option to fill out a declaration form before starting any eviction action.

The Order also sets forth procedures to ensure protection for residential tenants once they provide the required declaration form to the court or to the landlord.

Read a [FAQ about Executive Order No. 171](#).

State Youth Council Accepting Mini Grant Applications Through November 6, 2020

The NC Department of Administration's Council for Women & Youth Involvement is accepting mini grant applications through its State Youth Council program until November 6, 2020. Youth Councils are active across the state, enabling students to enhance their communities while helping their peers. The annual mini grant program specifically targets youth, particularly high school students grades 9 - 12, giving Youth Council members an opportunity to help local peers establish leadership skills in project development, management, and communication.

The application is open to youth councils, local government, private and non-profit agencies interested in developing innovative youth programs. This year, the State Youth Council will award a total of \$6,500 to deserving organizations and agencies. Mini grants will range from \$100 to \$500. To be eligible, applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020.

All project proposals must adhere to general COVID-19 safety guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The State Youth Councils will screen applications during the virtual Mini-Grant Conference scheduled for

Saturday, November 21. The Youth Advisory Council will also review applications before grants are awarded.

Examples of projects from past mini grant recipients include:

- A health program to educate youth on how to make better decisions regarding wellness;
- Acquisition of exercise equipment;
- And, a partnership with an animal shelter to build pens for dog shelters.

Food, entertainment, travel and salaries do not qualify for grant funding. For additional information and to apply, contact CFWYI Office's State Youth Council Coordinator, Candace Dudley, at (984) 236-0345.

For more information or to make a reservation, please visit:

<https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/n-c-state-capitol/digital-resources>

Trick or Treating Guidance from Public Health Experts

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. Check out these resources:

[Centers for Disease Control Halloween Guidance](#)

[NC Department of Health and Human Services Halloween Guidance](#)

If you do trick or treat, the N.C. Department of Transportation is encouraging parents, motorists and trick-or-treaters to be safe this Halloween.

Before children begin their trick-or-treat rounds, parents should:

- Plan and discuss a safe route and establish a return time. Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along the established route.
- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- Let children know that they should stay together as a group if going out to trick-or-treat without an adult.

To have a safe trick-or-treating adventure, trick-or-treaters should:

- Stay in familiar neighborhoods along the established route and stop only at familiar houses unless accompanied by an adult.
- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- Cross streets at crosswalks when available. Look both ways before crossing streets and cross when the lights tell you to cross, after you check for cars in all directions.
- Carry a flashlight, wear clothing with reflective markings or tape, and stay in

well-lit areas. Wear a watch you can read in the dark.

- Don't cut across yards or driveways.

Motorists should be especially alert on Halloween and follow these tips:

- Drive slowly through residential streets and areas where pedestrians trick-or-treating could be expected.
- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At dusk and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Again! Don't Forget to Get Your Flu Shot!

The first and most important step in protecting you and your family from the flu virus is to get a flu vaccine each year. Yet many North Carolinians don't get vaccinated.

Contact your health care provider or visit <https://vaccinefinder.org/> to find a convenient location to get a flu vaccination near you.

Stay safe...PEACE!



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Text MAJEEDN to 22828 to get started.

Visit our Website

#IWillNotYield



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