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MEDIA CONTACT:

Laura Phillips Ward | WardComm Public Relations, LLC
860.573.4809 | laura@wardcommpr.com

**“EVERYDAY HERO CT” PROGRAM REMINDS RESIDENTS TO
“CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY”**

October 30, 2017 | Cromwell, CT – It’s time to “fall back.” The Everyday Hero CT volunteer firefighter recruitment campaign reminds residents that Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, 2017. When setting clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4, remember to also change smoke alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) detector batteries.

“It’s a habit that’s both simple and life-saving,” says Chief Fred Dudek, Everyday Hero CT program manager. “Yet, so many people ignore their smoke and CO detectors. We urge everyone to not only change their batteries when they change their clocks but also set a reminder to test their alarms once every month.”

According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms. And, in homes with working alarms that simply fail to operate, it is usually because of batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead. The Everyday Hero CT program shares the following NFPA guidelines:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace the smoke alarm immediately if it doesn’t respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarms with nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, a warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.

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- For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Those who have questions about their smoke and CO detectors should contact their local fire department using the non-emergency phone number for assistance.

Volunteers Needed

Eighty percent of all fire personnel in Connecticut 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 willing and able to respond to emergencies whenever called upon.

“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 Dudek. “Those who join their local fire departments sign up for one of the most rewarding opportunities they’ll ever have.”

About Everyday Hero CT

A partnership of the [Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association](#) (CFCA) and the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#) (IAFC), the Everyday Hero CT campaign is a two-year Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) initiative designed to address the shortage of volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. It is helping achieve a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighter workforce fire departments throughout the state. Everyday Hero CT is funded by a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the CFCA 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. For more information, visit www.EverydayHeroCT.org.

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