

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Seth Effron
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY REMINDS CITIZENS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME COMES EARLY
Change Helps Energy Savings, Remember to Check Computer Clocks and Other Timers

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today reminded North Carolinians that Daylight Savings Time starts this Sunday (March 11), three weeks earlier than last year. The earlier start to Daylight Savings was mandated by Congress, as part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, to help cut electric use as fuel costs have dramatically increased.

“Agencies throughout state government are being reminded of the early time shift and are making all necessary adjustments to be sure there are no glitches that could affect critical services to citizens,” said Easley. “This is a good time to remind all North Carolinians to remember any changes that they may need to make at home to avoid any potential problems.”

Moving clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time trims energy consumption nationwide by about 1 percent each day because less electricity is needed for evening lighting and appliances, according to studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. That cut in consumption could result in saving \$320 million by 2020 and reduce the need for as many new power plants, according to congressional sponsors of the change.

The state Office of Information Technology Services has notified agencies of potential problems and how to address them so computer applications can be updated. The agency has also taken all necessary steps to update the equipment and systems it operates.

Besides turning clocks and other timers ahead an hour on Sunday, officials say clocks on many personal computers will need to be adjusted. Personal computer users who have the latest operating systems for Microsoft Windows or Apple Macs likely do not have to make any change. Those who are using older systems should check with Microsoft or Apple about how to make the change.

Homeowners who use the change in time to check batteries in smoke detectors and other home safety devices should not forget to take care of this important chore.

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Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166