

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Fire protection requirements for energy storage system containers



Overview

Fire protection requirements for energy storage equipment include: compliance with national and local codes, installation of appropriate fire suppression systems, continuous monitoring for thermal runaway, and routine maintenance and inspection. What are the fire and building codes for energy storage systems?

However, many designers and installers, especially those new to energy storage systems, are unfamiliar with the fire and building codes pertaining to battery installations. Another code-making body is the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Some states adopt the NFPA 1 Fire Code rather than the IFC.

What is a battery energy storage system guideline?

The purpose of this guideline is to inform industry of key safety in design considerations that Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) considers relevant in the design and installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). This guideline applies to BESS installations that are proposed to be installed within the FRV fire district.

Are energy storage systems required in the 2015 NFPA 1?

While the 2015 versions of the IFC and NFPA 1 do contain some requirements for energy storage systems, they are few compared to the 2018 and 2021 versions. The ESS requirements in the 2018 version, while certainly more restrictive than the 2015 version, are relatively modest.

Why are building and fire codes important?

Before diving into the specifics of energy storage system (ESS) fire codes, it is crucial to understand why building and fire codes are so relevant to the success of our industry. The solar industry is experiencing a steady and significant increase in interest in energy storage systems and their deployment.

What are non-residential storage requirements?

For storage capacities that exceed these limits, non-residential requirements come into play (NFPA 855 Chapters 4-9). Fire detection, including smoke and heat alarms, vehicle impact protection with approved barriers, and ventilation requirements for chemistries that produce flammable gas during normal operation are addressed.

What is battery energy storage fire prevention & mitigation?

In 2019, EPRI began the Battery Energy Storage Fire Prevention and Mitigation - Phase I research project, convened a group of experts, and conducted a series of energy storage site surveys and industry workshops to identify critical research and development (R&D) needs regarding battery safety.

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