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Latest fire protection requirements for energy storage projects



Overview

The 2026 edition of NFPA 855 updates safety and installation requirements for stationary energy storage systems (ESS), with a strong focus on lithium-ion battery systems under Chapter 9. Are energy storage systems a fire hazard?

However, like any electrical infrastructure, energy storage systems come with their own set of risks, particularly fire hazards. This is where the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 comes in. NFPA 855 is a standard that addresses the safety of energy storage systems with a particular focus on fire protection and prevention.

What are NFPA 855 requirements for energy storage systems?

Electrical and Wiring Safety – Proper electrical wiring and connections are critical for fire safety in energy storage systems. NFPA 855 outlines specific requirements for cable management, grounding, and circuit protection to ensure that electrical components do not pose a fire risk.

Which NFPA standards address energy storage systems?

NFPA Standards that address Energy Storage Systems Research on Energy Storage Systems from the Research Foundation Reports: Lithium ion batteries hazard and use assessment Phase I (2011), Phase II (2013), Phase III (2016). Webinars REGISTER NOW!

How does NFPA keep pace with energy storage and solar technology?

NFPA is keeping pace with the surge in energy storage and solar technology by undertaking initiatives including training, standards development, and research so that various stakeholders can safely embrace renewable energy sources and respond if potential new hazards arise. NFPA Standards that address Energy Storage Systems.

Are energy storage systems safe?

Energy storage systems, while essential for grid stability and renewable

energy integration, present unique challenges when it comes to fire safety. Issues like thermal runaway, short circuits, and the flammability of certain materials can result in fires that are difficult to manage due to the stored energy within the system.

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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