



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has established comprehensive regulations to ensure the safe installation and operation of battery energy storage systems (BESS) across the state. These regulations are designed to protect public safety, property, and the environment.



## How Battery Energy Storage System Requirements Are Set in California

**2025 California Fire Code, Chapter 12**  
Statewide regulations for BESS installation



### Standards Required for BESS Installations (per Chapter 12, CFC)

NFPA 855: Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems

UL 9540: Standard for Energy Storage Systems and Equipment



### Local Ordinances

Additional requirements as determined by local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).

## Common Fire Safety Measures

- Fire-Resistance Rated Rooms or Enclosures to Reduce Fire Spread
- Fire Suppression & Detection Systems Including Automatic Sprinkler Protection
- Emergency Ventilation Provisions to Manage Hazards of Flammable Gasses
- Battery Separation Distances to Minimize the Risk of Cascading Thermal Runaway Events
- Hazard Mitigation Analysis to Identify Fire Risks and Safety Features Based on UL 9540A Test Data
- Emergency Response Plan Submitted to Local Fire Authorities Outlining Emergency Procedures

**Visit our BESS Website!**

