

Latest fire protection requirements for energy storage projects

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.

Is NFPA 855 a fire safety standard?

In a recent article on grid-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) fire safety for our quarterly journal PV Tech Power (Vol.43), Drew Bandhauer, BESS engineer at developer Leeward Renewable Energy, described NFPA 855 as "the primary fire standard guiding BESS site design and installation" for the industry. The latest is the 2026 edition.

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 are the core requirements for a fire alarm system?

Core requirements include rack separation limits, a Hazard Mitigation Analysis to prevent thermal-runaway cascades, early-acting fire suppression and gas detection, stored-energy caps for occupied buildings, and detailed safety documentation (UL).

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 855: Standards detailing the requirements for mitigating the hazards associated with energy storage systems (ESS).

Learn how to comply with NFPA 855 battery fire code requirements for energy storage systems. Key rules, spacing, UL 9540A testing, and documentation steps.

One of the most anticipated releases is NFPA 855: Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. The standard sets minimum safety requirements for separation ...

The purpose of NFPA 855 is to establish clear and consistent fire safety guidelines for energy storage systems, including both stationary and mobile systems.

Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems-- now in its recently published third edition (2026)--provides mandatory requirements and explanatory text on energy ...

Chinese battery storage manufacturer-integrator Hithium recently conducted an all-open-door fire test on its BESS enclosure. Image: Hithium. The US National Fire Protection Association ...

NFPA is keeping pace with the surge in energy storage and solar technology by undertaking initiatives

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including training, standards development, and research so that various stakeholders can safely ...

If your team installs or works near battery energy storage systems (BESS), a new fire safety standard is going to affect how those systems get designed, approved, and built. The 2026 ...

The 2026 edition of NFPA 855: Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems has now been released, continuing the rapid evolution of safety requirements for battery ...

In this program, fire safety experts will unpack the latest updates to NFPA 855 and explore their implications for energy storage projects. The conversation will also address their ...

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