

**Office of the Fire Marshal
Kern County Fire Department
Fire Prevention Unit**



2820 M St. • Bakersfield, CA 93301 • www.kerncountyfire.org
Telephone 661-391-3310 • FAX 661-636-0466/67 • TTY Relay 800-735-2929

December 13, 2023

Dear Customer,

Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) is bringing to your attention a requirement for testing and maintenance of all systems requiring routine maintenance, particularly life safety, fire protection and detection systems at all Operational and Conditionally Approved Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects. The manufacturer's instructions for systems and components along with NFPA 68, NFPA 69, NFPA 72, NFPA 2001, NFPA 13, NFPA 22, NFPA 24, NFPA 25 & NFPA 10 and California Fire Code Section 109 require regular testing, inspection, and maintenance to keep the fire and life safety systems properly maintained and operationally ready. Continued Conditional Operational Approval is based on maintaining all fire and life safety systems in good working order, free from deficiencies and following all referenced standards and manufacturer's suggested guidelines from the date a subsystem is commissioned and/or the ESS receives Conditional Operational Approval.

Below are the NFPA codes and frequency of inspection and testing to be performed:

NFPA 10 – Portable Fire Extinguishers			Annually
NFPA - 13, 24 & 25 – Sprinklers/water supply/fire pump	Quarterly	Semi-Annually	Annually
NFPA 68 – Explosion Protection/Deflagration Venting	Every maintenance turnaround		Annually
NFPA 69 – Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems	Quarterly	Every maintenance turnaround	
NFPA 72 – Fire Alarm Systems		Semi-Annually	Annually
NFPA 2001 – Clean Agent Suppression		Semi-Annually	Annually

Fire Code Compliance Testing and Inspection involves having a Licensed Technician perform visual and physical testing of fire and life systems for functionality. All Testing and Inspection Certification documentation, signed by a licensed technician, shall be available for review by the Fire Authority upon request and/or be submitted to Kern County Fire Department's Fire Prevention Unit. KCFD reserves the right to visit any battery energy storage site and request to see testing and maintenance records. Any system discrepancies shall be addressed and all resolution documentation for repairs kept on record.

Regarding testing and maintenance of critical system components related to system safety, life safety, fire detection, fire suppression and concentration reduction systems, not directly addressed in NFPA Standards nor fire code sections, please have your Fire Protection Engineer provide a proposal on the service schedules based on the environmental conditions present at site using the manufacturer's guidelines as a starting point. Reference to the above requirements and the required routine testing and maintenance schedules of the ESS installation are required to be part of your KCFD SSB permit submittal under operation and maintenance documentation CFC 1207.2.1, Items 8 and 10 and CFC 1207.2.2.

If you have any questions, feel free to email our Fire Prevention Office at:
fireprevention@kerncountyfire.org

Regards,
Regina Arriaga, Assistant Fire Marshal
Kern County Fire Department
Fire Prevention