CALIFORNIANS FOR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE

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The New Generation of Battery Energy Storage is Engineered for Safety

Battery energy storage has made huge technological strides in recent years, becoming safer, smarter and more tightly regulated. The modernization of this technology keeps electricity reliable and affordable for Californians, strengthens and protects local communities, supports emergency preparedness and powers the state's transition to cleaner energy.



Advanced Technology Meets Rigorous Standards and Testing

Today's battery energy storage uses the most advanced battery technologies and are:

- **Held to strict safety and certification standards.** Every project must meet California Fire Code (CFC) requirements, which are based on National Fire Protection Association standards developed by nationally recognized experts. The CFC requires that battery energy storage systems undergo rigorous testing and certification processes. Since 2019, there have been no reported injuries or fatalities in the U.S. related to battery energy storage failures.
- **Engineered with advanced monitoring and early warning systems.** Modern facilities are equipped with real-time monitoring sensors to track temperature and system performance so that the systems can immediately and automatically respond to signs of any abnormalities.
- **Monitored 24/7 by trained personnel.** Battery energy storage locations have dedicated staff continuously monitoring equipment who are trained to identify issues and respond to rare emergencies.[1]
- **Designed to sharply limit any potential fires.** Current energy storage designs use containers of batteries placed outdoors, with adequate spacing and isolation to ensure that if a fire occurs, it will not spread beyond the initial container.

Systems Are Subject to Greater Oversight and Accountability

Current regulations require that:

- **Projects must comply with stringent state laws and local zoning, permitting, environmental and safety requirements.** All battery energy storage projects in California are required to have site-specific Emergency Response Plans and Emergency Action Plans per state law.[2]
- **Developers work closely with fire departments and local emergency agencies from the start to ensure community preparedness.**[3] Strong partnerships with fire departments and fire protection experts are essential for each battery energy storage project to promote safe and reliable operation. Developers host regular training and site visits with firefighters on preparedness.
- **Facilities are regularly inspected and tested.** Battery energy storage is subject to independent inspections by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).[4]

[1] SB 1383 Electricity: storage facilities: standards and records.
[2] SB 38 Battery energy storage facilities: emergency response and emergency action plans.
[3] SB 283 Clean Energy Safety Act of 2025.
[4] GO 167-C Compliance Audits.

Learn more at storagealliance.org/battery-energy-storage-california and cleanpower.org/acp-california/bess