
RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY FOR ELECTRIC FIRE PUMPS

Disciplines: Fire and Life Safety

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PURPOSE

This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) clarifies code requirements, based on the California Electrical Code (CEC) and NFPA 20 Sections 9.2 and 9.3, 2019 edition) as to what will be acceptable as a “reliable power supply” to an electric fire pump.

GENERAL

California Electrical Code, Article 695, Section 695.3, states, “Power Source(s) for Electric Motor-Driven Fire Pumps shall have a reliable source of power.”

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Reliable Power Supply

Various public utility commissions oversee electric companies. Municipal boards are authorized to acquire, construct, operate and maintain, and to take all necessary action, to provide an adequate, dependable, supply of bulk electric power and energy within its jurisdiction. A fire pump may be permitted to be supplied by a separate service from a reliable municipal utility or a combination of power supply and back-up supply produced on-site or as described in California Electrical Code Article 695.

1.2 Power Supply Will Include

Power source from a reliable municipal electric supply company which has been connected per Article 230 of the California Electrical Code or on-site produced electricity with a back-up power supply installed and connected in accordance with the provisions of Section 695.

1.3 Connection to Power Supply

The connection shall be located and arranged to minimize the possibility of damage by fire from within the premises and from exterior hazards. The electrical tap shall be ahead of the main building disconnect, and shall comply with Section 230.82(5) of the California Electrical Code. The service equipment shall comply with the labeling requirements in CEC Section 230.2(E), and the location requirements in Section 230.72(B) and NFPA 20 Section 9.2.2.

References:

2022 California Electrical Code, Articles 230 and 695
2022 California Fire Code, Section 913
2019 Edition of NFPA 20, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection

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