

UK Energy Storage Fire Fighting System





Overview

What happened at a battery energy storage system near London?

A fire at an under-construction, utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) close to London in Thurrock, Essex, was safely brought under control on February 20. Firefighters from Orsett, Corringham and Basildon were called on February 19 to the fire in East Tilbury.

What is the UK's energy storage systems (fire safety) bill?

If introduced, the UK's Energy Storage Systems (Fire Safety) Bill could act as a regulatory blueprint that other countries can follow and help to increase fire safety standards across the industry more broadly. What's included in the UK's BESS bill?

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What is a battery energy storage system?

Solutions that have been developed in recent years are Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), having the ability to capture and store excess generated electricity for delayed discharging. A BESS can also be standalone, connected directly to the grid.

Does a fire service need more power to enforce safety measures?

A fire service wants more power to enforce safety measures for battery energy storage systems (BESS). BESS stockpile green energy by using thousands of lithium-ion batteries in storage containers, but there are concerns about fire safety.

What are the ESS safety requirements for energy storage systems?

The International Fire Code (IFC) published its most robust ESS safety requirements in the most recent 2021 edition. By far the most dominant battery type installed in an energy storage system is lithium-ion, which brings



with its particular fire risks.

What will the UK Bess Bill mean for energy storage?

The UK BESS bill—if approved—will provide much-needed clarity around BESS fire safety standards, help to accelerate project development, and enable the UK to reach the 1.5TW of energy storage that is needed by 2030.



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Where installation of BESS equipment in rooms forming part of buildings with other occupancy types cannot be avoided, these should be separated from other areas by minimum 2-hour fire ...

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