



# Energy storage project explosion prevention

What is battery energy storage fire prevention & mitigation?

In 2019, EPRI began the Battery Energy Storage Fire Prevention and Mitigation - Phase I research project, convened a group of experts, and conducted a series of energy storage site surveys and industry workshops to identify critical research and development (R&D) needs regarding battery safety.

Who should join the energy storage safety project?

Utilities and system owners or operators with energy storage safety responsibilities should join this project. For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com). 2023 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Inc. All rights reserved.

How do I design an explosion prevention system for an ESS?

The critical challenge in designing an explosion prevention system for a ESS is to quantify the source term that can describe the release of battery gas during a thermal runaway event.

How do utilities impact energy storage safety practices?

Utilities are uniquely positioned to impact energy storage safety practices, especially in the absence of clear risk mitigation guidelines. Effective solutions will require additional data to characterize technologies, integration practices, failure incidents and their impacts, as well as controlled testing and modeling to frame future solutions.

Does the explosion prevention system work with other fire protection features?

The explosion prevention system functionality presented in this work is limited to removing flammable battery gas generated due to the non-flaring decomposition of batteries and does not consider its interactions with other fire protection features. 1. Introduction

How can EPRI help protect battery energy storage systems?

EPRI is currently working on a range of resources to help improve the safety of battery energy storage systems called the Project Lifecycle Safety Toolkit. It will include everything from data sets to white papers and guidebooks that provide practical steps to mitigate the risk of a battery fire and to optimize the response in case it occurs.

Fire departments need data, research, and better training to deal with energy storage system (ESS) hazards. These are the key findings shared by UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and presented by Sean DeCrane, International Association of Fire Fighters Director of Health and Safety Operational Services at SEAC's May 2023 General Meeting.

**PROJECT SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS** The scope of this Guideline includes recommendations on: o



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Industry training and awareness. o An overview of the current safety and energy regulations relevant to fire and explosion safety. The responsibilities of individuals, regard to preventing fire and explosion incidents. o A content profile for use as the

The stationary Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) market is expected to experience rapid growth. This trend is driven primarily by the need to decarbonize the economy and create more decentralized and resilient, "smart" power grids. Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are one of the main technologies behind this growth. With higher energy

The design methodology consists of identifying the hazard, developing failure scenarios, and providing mitigation measures to detect the battery gas and maintain its global concentration lower than 25% of the lower flammability limit (LFL) to meet the prescriptive performance criterion of NFPA 69 - Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems.. The UL ...

Utility-scale lithium-ion energy storage batteries are being installed at an accelerating rate in many parts of the world. Some of these batteries have experienced troubling fires and explosions.

EPRI's energy storage safety research is focused in three areas, or future states, defined in the Energy Storage Roadmap: Vision for 2025. Safety Practices Established. Establishing safety practices includes codes, standards, and best practices for integration and operation of energy storage support the safety of all.

The Peoria Fire-Medical Department is getting a good view of this progress. Several months after the McMicken explosion, the utility company Salt River Project announced plans to install a massive 250-megawatt ESS project called the Sonoran Energy Center several miles from Peoria.

There has been an increase in the development and deployment of battery energy storage systems (BESS) in recent years. ... The enclosure can be outfitted in the manufacturers" shop and shipped to the project site as a turnkey system. ... water is the preferred agent for suppression. Explosion prevention can be achieved by providing an ...

Battery Energy Storage Fire Prevention and Mitigation: Phase III OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE o Quantify fire, explosion, and emissions hazards created by energy storage thermal runaway. o Insight on public health and environmental impacts of event mitigation options. o Guidance on siting risks near critical infrastructure. VALUE

Lithium-ion based energy storage is one of the leading storage technologies that enables sustainable and emission-free energy. In recent years, due to their power density, performance, and economic advantages, lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) have seen an increase in use for peak shaving and grid support in residential, commercial, industrial, ...

storage and just over one gigawatt of large-scale battery storage were in operation in the United States at the end of 2019. By 2023, however, the EIA forecasts an additional 10 gigawatts of large-scale batteries will be installed in the United States . Globally, investments are pouring into energy storage projects, with . projections. putting

2. US Department of Energy (2019) Energy Storage Technology and Cost Characterization Report. Available at: [Link](#). 3. UL Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) (2020) Four Firefighters Injured In Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System Explosion - Arizona. Available at: [Link](#). 4.

The International Renewable Energy Agency predicts that with current national policies, targets and energy plans, global renewable energy shares are expected to reach 36% and 3400 GWh of ...

Explosion vent panels are installed on the top of battery energy storage system shipping containers to safely direct an explosion upward, away from people and property. Courtesy: Fike Corp ...

These limitations, however, have been primarily offset by the use of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), a means of storing the energy produced until it is needed. Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries have long been the most common type of battery used in BESS, offering numerous advantages such as size and power density, making them affordable and ...

Researchers hope this will help both strengthen new designs and procedures and meet energy storage needs safely and reliably. The first phase of this collaborative project, Battery Energy Storage Fire Prevention and Mitigation, studied more than 30 failure incidents since 2018 and conducted eight full-site hazard mitigation analyses.

Stationary Energy Storage Systems (ESS) are available in numerous designs. Beginning with small units for individual purposes with only small capacities, there are likewise large ESS parks with capacities up to several MWh (see Figure 1). Especially with respect to renewable energies, ESS are of high importance as they are used to store the energy...

BESS project sites can vary in size significantly ranging from about one Megawatt hour to several hundred Megawatt hours in stored energy. Due to the fast response time, lithium ion BESS can be used to stabilize the power grid, modulate grid frequency, provide emergency power or industrial scale peak shaving services reducing the cost of electricity for the end user.

The objectives of this paper are 1) to describe some generic scenarios of energy storage battery fire incidents involving explosions, 2) discuss explosion pressure calculations for one vented deflagration incident and some hypothesized electrical arc explosions, and 3) to describe some important new equipment and installation standards and ...



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Along with the intense heat generated from each affected battery cell during thermal runaway, is a dangerous mixture of offgas. According to the US-based National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 855 (A.9.6.5.6), thermal runaway results in the offgassing of "mixtures of CO, H<sub>2</sub>, ethylene, methane, benzene, HF, HCl, and HCN...and present an ...

Another serious incident reported was the Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage Facility (Moss Landing, California) in September 2022. The Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage Facility is a 182.5 MW/730 MWh transmission-sited project installed in August 2021. The facility is designed as an outdoor array of 256 Tesla Megapacks (Monterey

EPRI's battery energy storage system database has tracked over 50 utility-scale battery failures, most of which occurred in the last four years. One fire resulted in life-threatening injuries to first responders. These incidents represent a 1 to 2 percent failure rate across the 12.5 GWh of lithium-ion battery energy storage worldwide.

The challenges of explosion prevention - with flammable gases needing to be vented "very rapidly" - in the event of a battery fire have been highlighted at this week's Energy Storage Summit USA. ... (APS) energy storage facility in 2019 and one at ...'s 20MW project in Liverpool, England in 2020. ... PNNL believes the industry ...

The purpose of this project was to develop a hazard assessment of the usage of ... Development of Explosion Prevention/Control Guidance for ESS ... ESS Installments - Phase 1. 05-Nov-2023. During failure conditions such as thermal runaway, fire, and abnormal faults, some Energy Storage Systems (ESS), in particular electrochemical batteries and ...

Battery energy storage technologies Battery Energy Storage Systems are electrochemical type storage systems dened by discharging stored chemical energy in active materials through oxidation-reduction to produce electrical energy. Typically, battery storage technologies are constructed via a cathode, anode, and electrolyte. e oxidation and ...

energy storage capacity installed in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Recent gains in economies of price and scale have made lithium-ion technology an ideal choice for electrical grid storage, renewable energy integration, and industrial facility installations that require battery storage on a massive ... NFPA 69 Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems ...

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