

CAL FIRE / Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

CAL FIRE streamlines and adopts fire codes relevant to ZEVs, implements training, and educates communities on fire safety.

2022 Action Plan Report:

1. Update the regulations. Adopt changes in California Fire Code and nationally referenced standards to keep up with technology while providing safety to the industry and enforcing agencies.

- OSFM has proposed an increase in the size of Energy Storage Systems in the 2022 California Building Standards Code Intervening Code Cycle based on the new listings.
- OSFM staff participated in the International Code Council's code hearings to promote and create safe standards for green technologies at the national level.
- OSFM staff participated in the UL 9540, Energy Storage Systems and Equipment workgroups for the creation of updates in the safety standards. The process is on-going.
- OSFM adopted the new editions of UL 9540, Energy Storage Systems and Equipment and UL 9540A, Standard for Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Runaway Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems standards in the California Building Standards Code.

2. Enforcement Regulations on State Property. The State of California promotes the use of green technology and the installation of the infrastructure at state facilities. CAL FIRE has jurisdiction over state facilities and provides review, inspection, and approval of these systems.

- OSFM staff worked with design professionals in the design, review, inspection, and approval of numerous projects to ensure the safe installation and use of green technologies, including solar, energy storage systems and vehicle charging stations.

3. Support and educate governmental officials. CAL FIRE provides updates on changes in the regulations, assists the fire service and industry with questions, and issues formal code interpretations.

- OSFM staff worked with California Fire Chiefs Association – Fire Prevention Officer Section and California Building Officials (CALBO) to provide updates on the Energy Storage Systems and the Photovoltaic regulations to the fire & building officials and will continue this practice.
- OSFM worked with the state agencies with the expanding the use of solar and electric charges through our plan review and approval process and will continue this practice.