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**RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY FOR ELECTRIC FIRE PUMPS**

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**Disciplines:** Fire and Life Safety**History:** Revised 07/08/18  
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**PURPOSE:** This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) clarifies code requirements, based on the California Electrical Code (CEC) and NFPA 20 Section 5.20 (Sections 9.2 and 9.3, 2016 edition) as to what will be acceptable as a “reliable power supply” to an electric fire pump.

**GENERAL:** The 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 editions of the 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 utilities commissions oversee electric companies. Municipal boards are authorized to acquire, construct, operate and maintain, and to take all necessary action, in order 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 provider 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 so as 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 Section 230.2, and the location requirements in 230.72(B) and NFPA 20:9.2.2.

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**References:**

- 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 California Electrical Code, Articles 230 and 695
- 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2016 Editions of NFPA 20, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection

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