

Fire service response

Advisory Note - To assist in this application we would refer any BESS application to consider:

- The Fire Service requires vehicular access as per Approved Document B Vol 2 B5.
- The access road should be a minimum width of 4.5m and capable of carrying 12.5 tonnes. Additionally if the access road is more than 20m long a turning circle, hammerhead, or other turning point for fire appliances will be required.
- There should be a suitable fire hydrant within 90m of the proposed planning application.
- New sites should have an outline battery storage safety management plan.
- The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance should be used for Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems, including:
 1. Effective identification and management of hazards and risks specific to the siting, infrastructure, layout, and operations at the facility.
 2. Impact on surrounding communities, buildings, and infrastructure.
 3. Siting of renewable energy infrastructure so as to eliminate or reduce hazards to emergency responders.
 4. Safe access for emergency responders in and around the facility, including to energy storage infrastructure and firefighting infrastructure.
 5. Provision of adequate water supply and firefighting infrastructure to allow safe and effective emergency response.
 6. Vegetation sited and managed so as to avoid increased bushfire and grassfire risk.
 7. Prevention of fire ignition on-site.
 8. Prevention of fire spread between site infrastructure (solar panel banks, wind turbines, battery containers/enclosures).
 9. Prevention of external fire impacting and igniting site infrastructure.
 10. Provision of accurate and current information for emergency responders during emergencies.
 11. Effective emergency planning and management, specific to the site, infrastructure and operations.
 12. Owner to have a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan, showing full understanding of hazards, risks, and consequences.Other international guidance could be utilised for this type of infrastructure such as the NFPA 855.
- Depending on its capacity, a BESS may also require a generating licence to operate. Generating licences are issued by the Office for Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), the independent energy regulator for Great Britain.