



CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 19-002

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School Re-Opening After Extended Loss of Electrical Power

The CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal is issuing this bulletin to provide clarification and consistent guidance on steps school districts should take to safely operate or re-open schools that have been impacted by extended loss of electrical power due to Public Safety Power Shutoff or severe weather.

Fire Alarm systems will contain different devices depending on the code year that they were installed, but are required to be maintained by California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 1.14. The system shall be capable of powering the required load for 24 hours per California Fire Code, Section 907.2.2.5.

This back up power may be provided by:

1. An emergency generator that automatically supports the operation of the fire alarm system upon a loss of electrical power, or
2. By battery back - up calculated to support the electrical demand of the fire alarm system for a minimum of 24 hours.

In the event of the loss of power for more than 24 hours the batteries should be replaced in kind, by personnel who are factory trained and familiar with the system, who will mark the date and time of replacement.

As an alternate, the local fire authority may approve the use of a Fire Watch to be provided for all occupants left unprotected until the power is restored and the Fire Alarm system can be returned to full service in compliance with California Fire Code, Section 901.7.

For more information on approved continuity of school operations during an extended power outage please contact your local fire department.