

New York's Stronger Safety Codes for Battery Storage



NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority

From the New York State Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2025

The updated New York State Fire Code sets some of the strongest battery safety standards in the nation.

Governor Hochul convened the Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group in 2023 after fires at three battery sites in the state. The Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group brought together state agencies, fire service leaders, and national experts. The Working Group reviewed the safety standards in place and, drawing on lessons learned, recommended code changes to strengthen protections where they were needed. Those recommendations are now part of the 2025 New York State Fire Code, providing New York with some of the strictest battery storage fire codes in the nation.

HOW SOME OF THE NEW RULES PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

Before it is built

1. Independent expert review
2. No exemptions for utilities

Every day it operates

3. 24/7 remote system monitoring
4. Regular safety inspections

If an emergency happens

5. Clear signs and site maps
6. Central station service alarm system
7. Emergency response plan
8. Training for firefighters
9. Experts on call



Learn more

Scan the QR code or visit
nyserdera.ny.gov/FSWG.

The New Codes Explained

What each rule does, and how it keeps your community safer.

1. Independent peer review

Large battery projects must have their designs checked by independent fire safety experts.

How it helps: potential problems are caught before construction begins.

2. No exemptions for utilities

Projects owned or operated by electric utilities must meet the same fire code as other projects.

How it helps: every site in New York is held to one consistent standard.

3. 24/7 remote monitoring

To help prevent an incident, battery system data must be watched by a Network Operations Center staffed around the clock, with critical failures reported immediately.

How it helps: warning signs are caught and acted on early.

4. Regular safety inspections

Sites must receive ongoing special inspections, paid for by the project owner.

How it helps: safety is checked for the life of the project, not just on the first day of operation.

5. Clear signs and site maps

Safety signs now extend to perimeter fences and include a map of the batteries and equipment.

How it helps: first responders understand the site when they arrive.

6. Central station service alarm system

Should a fire occur, fire detection systems must be monitored by a central station alarm service.

How it helps: the local fire department is notified immediately.

7. Emergency response plan

Every facility must have a written plan for responding to an emergency.

How it helps: everyone knows their role before a situation ever occurs.

8. Training for firefighters

Owners must offer site training and an annual site visit for local fire departments.

How it helps: firefighters know the layout and hazards in advance and are prepared to respond.

9. Experts on call

Qualified experts must be ready within 15 minutes and on site within four hours.

How it helps: firefighters get direct support from people who know the battery system.

For the full requirements, see Section 1207 of the 2025 Fire Code of New York State, available from the New York State Department of State.