



# DFS Battery Symposium

10-13-2023



**Woburn Electrical School of  
Code & Theory**



MA Board of Elevator Regulations

ASME A.17 Emergency Operations



- Opinions, perspectives and comments
- Cannot cover everything
- More questions than answers
- Nothing intended to be contentious

# Disclaimer

- No central location for finding information
- Technology is far advanced
- Battery saturation
- Word is spreading

# Codes and Standards Process

- By no means perfect or as accurate as we would like
- Written by individuals and not organizations, so get involved if you want change
- Developed as a consensus of best practices, high technical aspects, good ideas with numerous negotiations and finalized by voting
- Drafted years before publication
- Adoption is a slow process











# History

- Numerous incidents globally (South Korea, Islands of Samoa and Hawaii) impacted progress and lives making a push for fire testing
- The California Energy Alliance called upon the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to address gaps between workshops run by the Department of Energy and the Fire Protection Research Foundation



# Evolution of Regulation

- In 2016 a project to create the NFPA 855 Standard for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems was launched
- The 2015 NFPA 1 Chapter 52 and 2015 NFPA 853 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Fuel Cell Power Systems were used as the model
- Development was delayed approximately eighteen months due to electric utilities
- Regulations are minimal collective safety intentions



Follow the  
Bouncing Ball...

# Evolution of NFPA Regulation

- The 2003 NFPA 1 Chapter 52 Stationary Lead Acid Battery Systems
  - Carried through in the 2006 and 2009 editions
- The 2012 changed the title to Stationary Storage Battery Systems
  - Carried through in the 2015 edition
- The 2018 changed the title to Energy Storage Systems
  - Carried through in the 2021 edition
- In 2020 the first edition of NFPA 855 was released
- In 2023 the second edition of NFPA 855 was released
- Currently there is work taking place for the next edition
- Tons of annex material



# Evolution of IBC Regulation

- The 2018 IFC section 1206 (mirrors NFPA 855)
  - MA missed this edition
- The 2018 IRC section R327 (mirrors NFPA 855)
  - MA missed this edition
- The 2021 IFC section 1207 (mirrors NFPA 855) and should appear in the adoption of the 10 edition of 780 CMR
- The 2021 IRC section R328 (mirrors NFPA 855) and should appear in the adoption of the 10 edition of 780 CMR
- The 2024 editions are expected to point directly to 855

# Evolution of MA Regulation

- MA previously adopted the 2012 and 2015 NFPA 1 and nobody balked at the Chapter 52
- MA adopted the 2018 Chapter 52 in October 2019
- MA made two significant additions
  - Permit
  - 1&2 family
- MA produced two guidance documents in May and June of 2021 to address small systems

# Evolution of UL Regulation

- NFPA 855 relies heavily on UL Standards
  - UL 1642 - Cells
  - UL 1973 - Battery
  - UL 1974 - Repurposed Batteries
  - UL 1741 - Inverter
  - UL 9540 - Entire System (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)
  - UL 9540A - Thermal Runaway (5<sup>th</sup> edition)
- Not everything needs to be listed. Non listed parts can be used to achieve a listing for a system



# Other NFPA Regulations (not suppression or alarm)

- NFPA 68 Standard for Explosion Protection by Deflagration Venting
- NFPA 69 Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems
- NFPA 70 NEC
  - Chapter 706 ESS
  - Chapter 480 Batteries
  - Chapter 690 PV
  - Chapter 705 Interconnections

# In a nutshell

- UL 9540 evaluates the entire ESS for safety
- UL 9540A compliments 9540 to help understand and mitigate risks
- NFPA 855 bridges UL standards to provide installation guidance with best practices
- The irony here is that the ESS is supposed to be designed to consume itself

# Inspections

- Validation of permitted construction documents per 855
- Access
- ERP/EAP/On-site personnel/SDS
- Commissioning and decommissioning plan
- Detection, suppression, controlling systems
- Shutdown procedures
  - Sensitive to secretive technology
- Handover



