

January, 2013
BUILDING DIVISION

EMERGENCY POWER FOR FIRE PUMPS

Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(b) of the 2012 British Columbia Building Code states that "an emergency power supply capable of operating under a full load for not less than 2 hours shall be provided by an emergency generator for water supply for fire fighting if the supply is dependent on electrical power supplied to the building".

Previous editions of the BC Building Code required emergency power to a fire pump only in high buildings. Then with subsequent editions of the Code an emergency power supply to a fire pump was deemed to be required only if the fire pump served a standpipe system, regardless of building height.

As of June 1, 2007, in accordance with the Office of Housing and Construction Standards, Building Policy Branch Information Bulletin B07-07-May 2007, the City of Surrey requires that all electric fire pumps which serve a fire sprinkler system, a standpipe system, or a fire hydrant, shall be provided with back-up power provided by an emergency generator capable of operating under a full load for at least 2 hours. This requirement remains the same even if the standpipe or sprinkler system is required to have a water supply duration of at least 30 minutes per the NFPA 13 and NFPA 14 standards.

The installation of the emergency generator must be sized, located and tested to the requirements of NFPA 20 and CAN/CSA-C282.

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