



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS

405.037 FIRE PUMPS AND ALTERNATE EQUIVALENT FIRE PROTECTION REQUESTS

EFFECTIVE: MARCH 2017

SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department's (FFD or Department) requirements related to the installation of fire pumps within the City of Fresno and contract service areas when a request for an alternate, equivalent means of fire protection has been requested. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary systems.

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction for the installation of fire pumps within the City of Fresno and contract service areas when a request for an alternate, equivalent means of fire protection has been requested.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the *California Fire Code (CFC)*, the fire code official has the authority to formulate policies they deem necessary based upon local conditions related to fire pump installations and requests for alternate, equivalent means of fire protection.

FFD has concluded that Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the local utility provider in our area, is a reliable source of power for fire pumps. However, when a building is requesting alternate, equivalent means of fire protection for *California Building Code (CBC)* or *CFC* requirements, it is prudent and sound engineering practice for the authority to require additional factors of safety for the building, its occupants and firefighters.

REQUIREMENTS

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined the following:

1. Anytime a request for an alternate, equivalent means of fire protection is made by an owner or designer, and the building requires the

installation of a fire pump to meet the requirements of the *CBC*, *CFC*, and/or *National Fire Protection Association 13 (NFPA)*, the fire pump shall be:

- a. A diesel powered fire pump installed in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the *CFC* and *NFPA 20* or;
 - b. An electric powered fire pump installed in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the *CFC* and *NFPA 20*, which is also provided with a secondary power source (i.e. standby generator).
 - c. The secondary power source must have the requisite fuel capacity and transfer switch size, to switch and power the electric driven fire pump. The standby generator shall also be capable of supplying all of the other life safety and other code required systems.
2. This requirement extends to any and all requests for an alternate, equivalent means of fire protection, regardless of the element(s) affected by the request.

CROSS REFERENCES

California Building Code

California Fire Code

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13

Automatic Sprinkler Systems (California Amended)

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 20

Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection