



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	02-28-01	Interpretation #	01-004
Topic	<b>Back-Up Power for Fire Alarm Control Panels</b>		
Code Section(s)	<b>§1-5.2.6, NFPA Standard #72 (1996 edition)</b>		
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1. **Is a 60-hour battery standby required to monitor fire sprinkler systems? If so, what is the code citation for this requirement?**

No. NFPA 72 Section 1-5.2.6 requires both Auxiliary and Remote Supervising Stations to have a minimum of 60 hours of battery standby. Because Auxiliary and Remote Supervising Stations do not necessarily receive trouble signals. Thus, it is possible that a protected premise could be left out without fire alarm protection for an extended period of time.

In contrast, Central Stations and Proprietary Supervising Stations are required to receive trouble signals, thus providing immediate notice and correction of a problem within a few hours, negating the need for a minimum of 60 hours of battery standby.

2. **In “normal” situations where a fire alarm panel is provided and monitored by a Central Station, would 24-hour battery standby be adequate?**

Yes. It is adequate for a fire alarm control panel monitored by a Central Station to have 24-hour battery standby, as opposed to 60-hour battery standby.

3. **NFPA 72, Section 1-5.2.6 addresses the requirement for a 60-hour battery standby for Auxiliary and Remote Stations. Is it correct to assume that this requirement does not apply to Central Stations and Proprietary Supervising Stations?**

Yes. The State Fire Marshal (SFM) currently adopts National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 72, 1996 edition. Section 1-5.2.6 of NFPA 72, requires a minimum of 60 hour battery standby for only Auxiliary and Remote Stations.