



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	07-19-01	Interpretation #	01-008
Topic	Battery Backup in School Fire Alarm Systems		
Code Section(s)	§ 1-5.2.6 NFPA 72 (1996 ed.)		
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What is the minimum duration of back-up batteries for school fire alarm systems?

For protected premises systems, Section 1-5.2.6 of NFPA Standard #72 (1996 ed) requires that there be enough battery capacity to operate the system for 24 hours and at the end of that 24 hour period the system must be capable of operating all alarm notification appliances used for evacuation or to direct aid to the location of an emergency for five minutes. For remote station or auxiliary systems, NFPA Standard #72 requires that the system have battery capacity to operate for 60 hours followed by five minutes of alarm.