

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0113**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	April 20, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Emergency Power for Fire Pump
Keywords:	Emergency power, fire pump, separate electrical feed
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.5.7.(1) & (2), 3.2.7.9.(1)(b),

## Question:

If a building requires a fire pump to provide an adequate water supply for firefighting, and the pump is an electric fire pump with a separate dedicated electrical service from the local utility provider, is an emergency generator required to provide power in the event of a power failure?

## Interpretation:

Yes

Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(b) requires an emergency power supply be provided by an emergency generator capable of operating under full load for not less than 2 hours for water supply for firefighting as required by Article 3.2.5.7., if the water supply is dependent upon electrical power provided to the "building".

It is interpreted that the fire pump is an integral part of the "building", so even though the electrical power to the fire pump is a separate service from the electrical service for the remainder of the building, this separate service is still electrical power provided to the "building".



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.