

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 AT 09.11 AM PT

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RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF LACOFD STATEMENTS MADE BY CHIEF MARRONE AND DEPUTY CHIEF YANAGISAWA DURING THE BESS APPEAL HEARING HELD DURING THE LACO BOS MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2023

FROM: Ruth Brock <actontakesaction@att.net>
TO: Albert Yanagisawa <Albert.Yanagisawa@fire.lacounty.gov>

SUBJECT: Gain Clarification on Statements made by Chief Marrone at LACoBOS BESS Appeal Hearing Yesterday

Dear Chief Yanagisawa,

As you observed and heard yesterday, the residents of Acton are extremely concerned over the Hecate Humidor BESS being developed in our community. We responded in a significant number to attend the hearing for our appeal to the NOE to CEQA issued to the Humidor project.

I wish to gain clarification on a statement by Chief Marrone regarding the method of fire suppression for the Humidor BESS which he made at yesterday's hearing.

Chief Marrone stated that water would NOT be used to suppress a fire incident?

If not water to suppress a fire or thermal runaway, then what method of suppression would be utilized by County HazMat personnel during an incident? It's already been shown that non-conductive, aerosolized clean agents are not effective, and in fact actually increased the probability for the deflagration incident at the McMicken BESS in April of 2019. The clean agent was successful in suppressing any active flame but allowed super-heated, highly flammable toxic gases to accumulate down near the container floor, which when the side door of the container was opened, were able to find an ignition source resulting in a tragic deflagration which severely injured two responding fire personnel.

Also, the detailed study by the Oxford University Physics Professors in the UK (which I provided to you in an earlier correspondence) clearly provides proof of how ineffective a clean agent suppression system is in stopping or preventing thermal runaway.

So, if LACounty Fire will not be utilizing water in a response to a BESS fire and since clean agents have been proven to be ineffective, what suppression method would be protocol for an incident at this BESS?

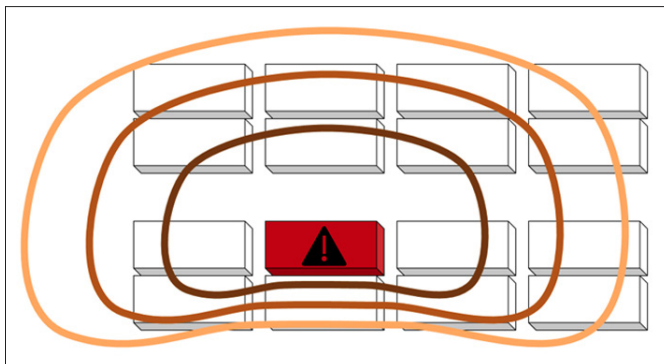
Hecate has not been forthcoming with information when I have requested which specific suppression system would be utilized at the Humidor. Their reply is that they will utilize "state-of-the-art technology as required under the fire code"... which does not answer my question.

In all of my research on lithium-ion batteries and the fire suppression methods used, I can find no other recommended methods being utilized besides water misting, continuous water application or allowing them to burn themselves out, which still requires water to protect from the spread to surrounding structures and areas.

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Secondly, the Fire Chief also stated that there have only been 3 Fire incidents at BESS facilities. This statement is completely false and was very misleading. For instance, a new BESS commissioned in March 2022 in Valley Center, CA (which was also highly contested by the residents) has already had TWO incidents, both requiring a 1/4 mile radius evacuation and 1/2 mile radius shelter in place order. Then there's Vistra and Tesla in Moss Landing, McMicken in Surprise AZ, Dorman in Chandler AZ, the Melba, Idaho substation, the Cove Hollow Road Substation in East Hampton NY, the Tesla Victorian Big Battery in Australia, multiple in South Korea, China, Taiwan... I will just stop here as I believe my point has been made,

This is the worldwide data base for BESS incidents around the world. And EVERY incident that involves fire is relevant, whether in America, Australia, South Korea or anywhere else!



BESS Failure Event Database - EPRI Storage Wiki

https://storagewiki.epri.com/index.php/BESS_Failure_Event_Database

Thank you Chief and I will look forward to your reply.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Ruthie Brock
Chair, Acton Takes Action