



# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Code Enforcement and Administration

Phone : (518) 474-4073

[www.dos.state.ny.us](http://www.dos.state.ny.us)

Fax : (518) 486-4487

E-mail: [info@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:info@dos.state.ny.us)

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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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**Effective Date:** January 1, 2003

**Source Document:** 19NYCRR 1225 - *Fire Code of New York State (FCNYS)*  
19NYCRR 1221 - *Building Code of New York State (BCNYS)*

**Topic:** Power Sources for Electric-Driven Fire Pumps

This document is to clarify the requirements in the *Fire Code of New York State*, the *Building Code of New York State* and NFPA 20, for electric motor-driven fire pumps to have a reliable source of power.

Many installations of electric-driven fire pumps will not be required to have a backup generator or other standby power supply. FCNYS Section 913, entitled "Fire Pumps," requires protection against interruption of service in accordance with NFPA 20, 1996, entitled "Installation of Centrifugal Fire Pumps." Within NFPA 20, Section 6-2 covers power sources and requires that power shall be supplied to electric motor-driven fire pumps by a service or by an on-site generator. Section 6-2.1, service, specifically states that a service is acceptable as long as it is arranged to minimize the possibility of damage by fire. Furthermore, BCNYS section 2702, entitled "Emergency and Standby Power Systems," does not provide that fire pumps are required to have emergency power or standby systems, except in high-rise buildings. Therefore, a fire pump that is connected to an electrical service system (power grid) and is protected against disruption, is permitted to act as the only power supply.

NFPA 70 section 695-3 requires electric motor-driven fire pumps to have a reliable source of power, which includes sufficient capacity to operate the pump and accessory equipment. Electric utility service connection is permitted to be supplied by a separate service, or a tap located ahead of and not within the same cabinet, enclosure, or vertical switchboard section as the service disconnect means.

NFPA 20 Section 6-1 states that all electrical and installation methods shall comply with NFPA 70 Article 695 and other applicable articles. This statement allows other parts of NFPA 70 to be used for installation methods, such as Article 230-2 for allowing multiple services. Conversely, it does not allow the use of other parts of NFPA 70 for applicability provisions, such as Article 700-1 for determination of emergency system requirements.

It should be noted that fire pumps utilized in certain circumstances are required to have a standby power supply. These situations are specifically addressed including:

BCNYS section 403.10 - High-Rise Buildings

BCNYS section 405.9 and FCNYS section 604.2.15 - Underground Buildings

NFPA 20 Section 6-2 - Buildings of heights beyond the capacity of Fire Department apparatus

**Ronald E. Piester, R.A., Director**  
**Division of Code Enforcement and Administration**