



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. #: 12-5-23

**Subject:** Response Profile- “**Interim Guidance**” Structure fires with suspected lithium Battery involvement.

**Date:** December 19, 2023

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As the installation of residential energy storage systems (ESS) increase, the frequency of fire incidents involving these products will increase. To date, at least 60 residential ESS fire events have been documented globally, including 19 incidents in 2022 and 21 incidents so far in 2023. The presence of residential (ESS) has the potential to create catastrophic fire conditions including “backdraft”, deflagrations, and other toxic gas explosions. Personnel must use extreme caution when encountering potential and confirmed ESS conditions. Incident Commanders and Safety Officers must be synchronized in their decision making and protective strategies. Life safety is paramount, and we must avoid unnecessary risks in these situations. Below is a link to a recent UL study that was conducted to determine and validate the science and specificity of these events.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e1RLocLz-ZslbZ7jo\\_BRBIIVTIQc-J70/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e1RLocLz-ZslbZ7jo_BRBIIVTIQc-J70/view)

**All company commanders and their subordinate officers shall:**

1. Review thoroughly Chapter-7 Fire Service Size-Up and Tactical Considerations
2. Provide an “awareness level” training to all personnel assigned and under their command.
3. Enter the training into the DFEMS/LMS
4. Provide a memo to AC Brothers -Safety 100 attesting to completion by 2/1/2024.

Safety 100- AC Brothers will be developing an “interim” SOP to assure operational safety and then that will be reviewed, revised and approved. This research has validated the prevalence and immediacy of this issue and DFEMS is moving to assure “situational awareness” of all personnel.

MWR/cw

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