



CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 21-004

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2019 California Residential Code section R327.7 for Heat Detection for Energy Storage Systems

The 2019 Intervening Code Cycle adopted the 2021 International Code Council's regulations for Energy Storage Systems (ESS) which included a requirement for a residential heat detector that that does not exist. These regulations are in the California Residential Code (CRC) section R327.7 and the California Fire Code (CFC) section 1206.11.6 which require the installation of a listed heat detector in areas where a smoke detector was not appropriate. The term "heat alarm" may be more appropriate for residences without a fire alarm system.

Currently there are no heat alarms that are listed for installation for unconditioned spaces where the temperature can exceed 100°F, which includes most garages. Installation of heat alarm in these conditions could create nuisance alarms. The current standard does not cover unconditioned spaces.

Local jurisdictions should consider alternates for the use of heat alarms until the regulations are modified or listed devices become available. Consider if the garage has fire sprinkler protection, the ambient temperatures and conditions, and other options. Reasonable alternates should be considered until the CRC and CFC are updated.