



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Napa County Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Office  
1125 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Napa, CA 94558

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Adam Mone  
Fire Plans Examiner

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 3/4/2020

**SUBJECT:** Fire Marshal's Office Interpretation Electrical Disconnects

2019 California Electrical Code section 225.32 dictates that means of disconnecting the electrical power to a building or structure shall be provided. Napa County Municipal Code section 15.28.060 dictates that this means of disconnection must be provided *on the exterior of the building served in a location visible to emergency responders.*

The intent is to give fire fighters the ability to **de-energize ALL conductors** within the structure for first-responder safety during fire rescue and suppression operations as **water conducts electricity and electrical conductor insulators burn.**

Where multiple sources of power are provided for a building (photovoltaic, battery, generator, etc) **ALL sources shall be compliant** with Napa County Municipal Code section 15.28.060 (in addition any other disconnection means required by relevant articles).

**Please contact the Building Division with questions on the electrical code as related to:**

- 1) Napa County Municipal Code Section 15.28.060
- 2) 2019 California Electrical Code article 705 (interconnected electrical power sources, to include section 705.20-705.22 for the type of device required.)
- 3) 2019 California Electrical Code article 690 part III (Solar PV systems disconnecting means)
- 4) Other sections as relevant to the project.

Thank you,

Adam Mone  
Plans Examiner

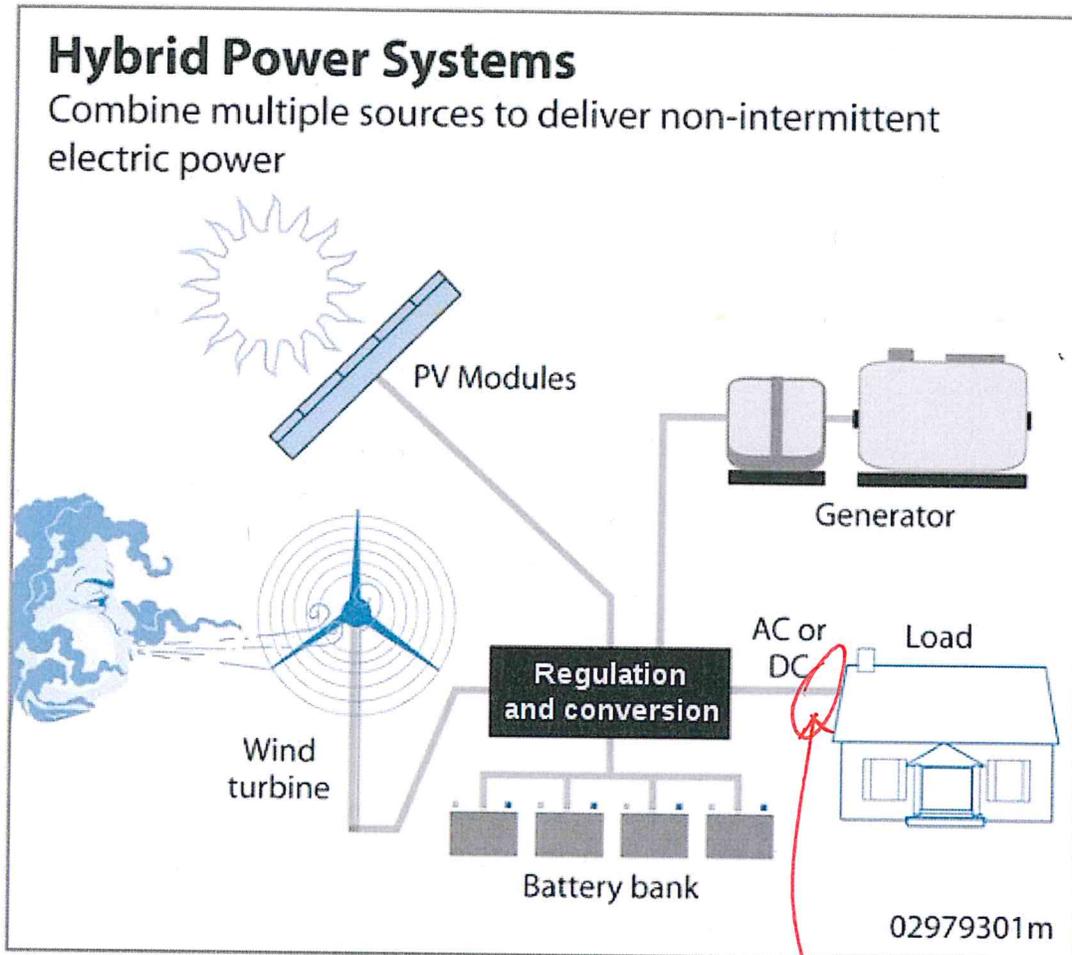
Please note that the comments noted above are based on a Fire Marshal review only. There may be additional comments or information requested from other County Departments or Divisions reviewing this application submittal package. Should you have any questions of me, contact me at (707)299-1466 or email at [adam.mone@countyofnapa.org](mailto:adam.mone@countyofnapa.org)

Napa County Municipal Code Section 15.28.060 - Section 225.32—Location.

The first paragraph of Section 225.32 of the electrical code is amended to read as follows, and the listed exceptions following therein shall remain in effect:

225.32 Location. **The disconnecting means for conductors that serve or pass through a building or structure shall be installed on the exterior of the building or structure and within sight for emergency and utility vehicles entering the property.** The disconnecting means shall be at a readily accessible location nearest the point of entrance of the conductors. For the purposes of this section, the requirements in 230.6 shall be utilized. Alternate location of the disconnecting means may be approved as the building official determines is reasonable and safe.

(Ord. No. 1350, § 11, 11-23-2010, eff. 12-23-2010; Ord. No. 1450, § 24, 12-17-2019)



DISCONNECT(S)

GO HERE IN BLOCK DIAGRAM

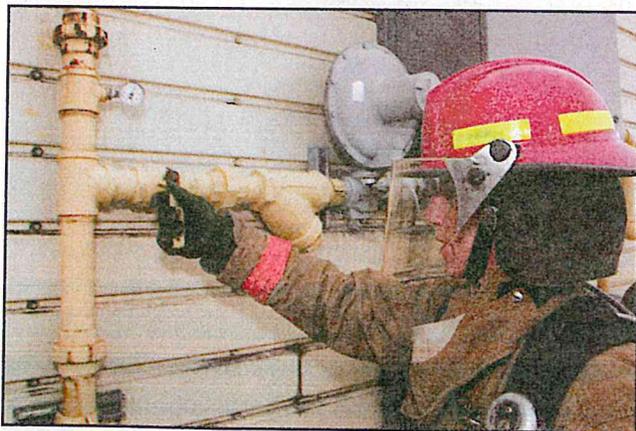
**NOTE:** These steps are to be performed assuming there is no back-up generator or alternative source of energy present. Always use CAUTION when performing this skill and refer to local policy for further guidance.

**Step 1:** Confirm order with officer to turn off utilities.



**Step 2:** Locate and shut off electricity by closing the main breaker switch at main service panel.

- a. Individual breakers may need to be used if there is not main breaker switch
- b. Note any tripped breakers
- c. Always use caution; backup or alternative energy sources may be present



**Step 3:** Locate natural gas meter and/or LPG/CNG storage tank/cylinder and shut off.



**Step 4:** Locate water meter box and shut off water meter.

**Step 5:** Report to officer completion of assigned task.

*(From The INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION.)*