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UL 1008 is one of the most rigorous safety standards for transfer switches in emergency power systems. To meet UL 1008 standard, transfer switches are tested as a complete assembly on performance endurance, safety and reliability by an independent testing and certification agency. They are evaluated in accordance with Articles 517- healthcare facilities, 702-optional standby systems of the NEC (ANSI/NFPA 70) and the NFPA for healthcare facilities (ANSI/NFPA 99). Today, most healthcare facilities and facilities that have legally required emergency power generally only accept UL 1008 transfer switches.

Performance of emergency power systems and their components, such as transfer switches, is so critical to safety that in NFPA's 2017 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) there is a new provision outlined in article 700.3(F) for emergency systems.

It states, "If the emergency system relies on a single alternate source of power, which will be disabled for maintenance or repair, the emergency system shall include permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power, which shall be available for the duration of the maintenance or repair."

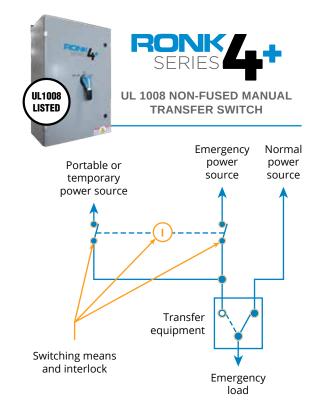
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The new provision also states that: "The permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power shall comply with the following:

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- (2) Transfer of power between the normal power source and the emergency power source shall be in accordance with 700.12.
- (3) The connection point for the portable or temporary alternate source shall be marked with the phase rotation and system bonding requirements.
- (4) Mechanical or electrical interlocking shall prevent inadvertent interconnection of power sources.
- (5) The switching means shall include a contact point that shall annunciate at a location remote from the generator or at another facility monitoring system to indicate that the permanent emergency source is disconnected from the emergency system.

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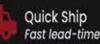
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Advanced Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems (Erces) Eliminate Potential Dead Zones In Commercial Buildings To Help First Responders Stay Connected

First responders such as fire, EMS and police depend on reliable two-way radio communication when lives and property are at risk. That's not always an easy task in many buildings. In-building radio signals are often absorbed or blocked by structures that are larger, underground or constructed of concrete or metal. Additionally, building features designed to create more sustainable facilities such as low-E glass windows can attenuate the signal from public safety radio systems. When this occurs, weak or non-existent signals result in radio communication "dead zones" within commercial structures that can jeopardize coordination among and the safety of first responders during an emergency.

As a result, most fire codes now mandate the installation of Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems (ERCES) for both new and existing commercial buildings. These advanced systems boost the signal inside the building, providing clear, two-way radio communication without dead spots.

"The challenge is that first responders operate on many different frequencies which vary significantly from city to city, so the ERCES equipment must be designed to amplify only the specific assigned channels," says Trevor Mathews, Wireless Division Manager at Cosco Fire Protection, a provider of business fire suppression and life safety systems for more than 60 years. The company has offered dedicated in-building radio communication system installation services for the past four years.

Mathews adds that this design usually involves tuning the ERCES to prevent signal interference with other frequencies and avoid running afoul of the FCC, which can levy significant fines when violations occur. In addition, companies often must install the entire system before the certificate of occupancy is issued. To meet the tight deadlines, installers rely on ERCES OEMs to quickly deliver the system components.

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State-of-the-art ERCES are available that arrive "custom-tuned" by the OEM to the specific required UHF and/or VHF channel. The contractor can then further optimize the device onsite to the actual band frequencies with channel selective adjustments. The approach facilitates meeting all codes and requirements while reducing overall installation cost and complexity.

#### Effective ERCES Equipment

ERCES were first introduced in the 2009 Internation-



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al Building Code. The latest codes – such as IBC 2021 Section 916, IFC 2021 Section 510, 2019 NFPA 1221 Section 9.6, NFPA 1 2021 Section 11.10, and 2022 NFPA 1225 Chapter 18 – require all buildings to have an approved level of emergency communication coverage for first responders.

ERCES systems function by connecting through an over-the-air link that the installer optimizes to the public safety radio communications tower network, using a rooftop directional antenna. This antenna is then connected via coaxial cable to a bi-directional amplifier (BDA), which increases the signal level to provide sufficient coverage within the building, based on life safety standards. The BDA is connected to a distributed antenna system (DAS), a network of relatively small antennas installed throughout the building that serve as repeaters to improve the signal coverage in any isolated areas.

In larger buildings of 350,000 square feet or more, multiple amplifiers may be required to drive an adequate signal level across the system. Besides the building's square footage, other criteria can also affect the number of amplifiers required, such as the building design, type of construction materials used, and the density of construction.

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In a recent application, Cosco Fire Protection was tasked with installing an ERCES along with a comprehensive fire and life safety system at a large distribution center in Washington. To meet municipal requirements, Cosco Fire needed to install an ERCES tuned to VHF 150-170 MHz for the fire department and UHF 450-512 for police. The building was due to receive its certificate of occupancy in several weeks, so installation needed to be completed quickly.

To streamline the process, Cosco Fire selected the Fiplex by Honeywell BDA and fiber DAS system, from a leading manufacturer of commercial building fire and life safety systems.

The compliant and certified system was developed to reliably provide superior RF amplification and coverage without noise, enhancing two-way radio signal strength inside buildings, tunnels and other structures. The system is specifically designed to meet NFPA and IBC/IFC code compliance with the UL2524 Second Edition listing.

According to Mathews, one vital aspect that sets the ERCES apart is the ability of the OEM to "tune" the device to the channels used before shipping. The contractor can then further optimize the BDA's RF tuning onsite to the precise frequency required with channel selective, software programmable or adjustable bandwidths. This eliminates the issue of wideband transmission in highly congested RF environments, which can otherwise cause outside interference and potentially lead to FCC fines.

Mathews points out another aspect that distinguishes Fiplex BDAs from other digital signal boosters: the availability of a dual-band option for dedicated UHF or VHF models.

"Combining the UHF and VHF amplifiers simplifies installation because you have one panel instead of two. It also reduces the necessary wall space, the power requirements, and potential points of failure. Annual testing is also easier," says Mathews.

With conventional ERCES systems, fire and life safety companies must often source third party components to supplement the OEM's package.

For a previous application, Mathews found it "difficult to get conventional ERCES equipment to work.

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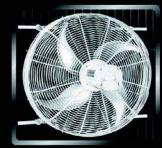


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We ultimately had to turn to a third party for the [signal] filters needed because the OEM wouldn't provide them." Mathews also said the lead time to receive the equipment was several months when he needed it in weeks.



In contrast, the Fiplex by Honeywell equipment was delivered in only a few weeks.

"With other suppliers, it could take 8-14 weeks to receive an amplifier," explains Mathews. "Now we can get a custom tuned amplifier and install it with the DAS in 5-6 weeks. That is a game changer for contractors, particularly when there is a tight window for the installation," says Mathews.

For building developers, architects or engineering firms wondering if an ERCES will be required in a new or existing building, the first step is to consult with a fire protection/life safety company that can conduct an RF survey of the space.

The RF Survey is accomplished by measuring the downlink/uplink signal strengths in decibels-milliwatts (dBm) using special measuring devices. Results are submitted to the authority with jurisdiction to determine if an ERCES system is required or if a waiver is appropriate.

"Testing early is preferable to reduce cost, complexity and simplify installation if an ERCES is required. If the building fails an RF survey at any point in time, whether completed construction is at 50%, 80% or 100%, the ERCES system will have to be installed, so testing earlier is better before installation becomes more difficult," says Mathews.

He notes there can be additional challenges when conducting RF testing in structures like warehouses. An empty warehouse may not require an ERCES, but the signal strength can change dramatically in areas of the facility after racking and other equipment is installed, and merchandise is added. If a system is installed once a warehouse is already operational, the fire and life safety

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company must work around the existing infrastructure and any personnel.

"It is much harder to install ERCES components in an occupied building versus an empty warehouse. Installers may need to use lifts to reach the ceiling, fix cable or place antennas, which is difficult to do at in a fully operational structure," says Mathews. If installation of the system interferes with the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, this bottleneck can significantly delay a project.

To avoid delays and technical challenges, commercial building developers, architects and engineering firms can benefit from an expert contractor's familiarity with the ERCES requirements.

With quick shipment of an advanced ERCES tuned by the OEM to the required RF channel, a skilled contractor can install and further optimize the device to the specific local band frequencies used with channel selective adjustments. The approach expedites the project and compliance, enhancing safety during an emergency.

For more information, contact Dawn Wotapka, Director of External Communications at Honeywell, 715 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308; email: dawn.wotapka@honeywell.com.

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# Fire Authorities Adopt Early Thermal Runaway Detection Technology

For backup power systems, a de facto industry standard is increasingly being installed in Battery Energy Storage Systems to help tame the dangers of thermal runaway.

At data centers across the United States, demand for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) is rapidly increasing. Comprised of an interconnected series of batteries, BESS are self-contained, rechargeable battery units that store energy, which they can then disperse in case of power loss. This makes BESS battery backup systems an ideal backup power source for data centers.

Despite the significant benefits, BESS are subject to thermal runaway conditions because, at their core, they utilize rechargeable batteries. However, the risks associated with the use of BESS can be exacerbated with the implementation of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. In Li-ion BESS scenarios, thermal runaway can occur due to thermal abuse or overcharging, which can cause excess heat to create a reaction that increases the internal temperature of the battery. The increase in heat can cause the electrolyte solution inside of a Li-ion battery to begin to turn into a vapor.

If left unchecked by built-in system protections or the Battery Management System, this process can continue to increase temperatures and pressure inside of the hermetically sealed battery cell, eventually causing

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the battery cell separator to melt down and degrade.

This stage of Li-ion battery failure is referred to as "off-gassing" or "initial cell venting." Failure to address the continued increase in heat at this stage will result in the internal temperature of the battery continuing to rise until a point of thermal runaway, which can propagate into fires in adjacent cells and other combustibles in the area.

Although smoke and gas detectors are required by code in BESS, smoke detectors are searching for particles of combustion, which are not present until thermal runaway occurs. Most gas detectors are designed to manage threats in lead-acid battery BESS and so detect either a generic hydrocarbon gas or quantity of gas at one physical location.

Due to these factors, traditional smoke and gas detectors used in a Li-ion BESS may only indicate a thermal runaway event once it is already occurring inside the container, rather than providing sufficient warning to prevent a fire.

Now, a growing number of fire authorities and life

safety system experts are addressing this issue by recommending detection technology that provides a warning far earlier than traditional monitoring and detection methods. This helps to stop thermal runaway before it begins, increasing data center safety and reliability.

The approach is not only being adopted throughout the country but also is increasingly being adopted by fire authorities as a de facto standard for Li-ion BESS applications.

"Today, the new technology for preventing thermal runaway is ahead of the [NFPA] code and most Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) are open to technology that satisfies the code's intent. So, the consensus is moving toward installing Li-ion-specific early warning detection systems over more generalized gas detection technologies," says Kenneth Pope, President and Owner of Pope Technologies LLC, a fire alarm and smoke control life safety systems designer and installer. The company has offices in Arizona, Nevada, Texas, and Utah, and Pope has worked in the industry for more than 25 years.





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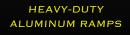
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Seeking Earlier Li-ion Detection, Greater Safety With Li-ion BESS applications expanding around the globe, the need for better protection from thermal runaway is increasing and becoming a crucial topic among fire departments and other AHJs. The danger is emphasized by incidents such as a runaway Li-ion battery explosion that injured nine first responders at the McMicken Energy Storage facility in Surprise, Arizona in April 2019.



So, when an area data center decided to install a large quantity of Li-ion BESS, the local AHJ required that gas detection solutions be retrofitted into the eight existing BESS containers as well as additional BESS containers planned for the site.

To satisfy the requirements for the project, the AHJ contacted Randy Snow, Managing Principal at Progressive Edge Technologies, a Phoenix, Arizona-based fire and life safety system consulting firm. Snow considered code-approved gas detection systems used in BESS, but wishing to provide a more robust solution, he began searching for alternatives. He consulted with Kenneth Pope at Pope Technologies, who recommended Li-ion Tamer, a detector that specifically targets the off-gas electrolyte vapor that is characteristic of a Li-ion battery cell vent release.

Li-ion Tamer by Honeywell consists of two primary components: a controller and a network of offgas sensors installed above the battery racks. The sensors utilize sophisticated detection algorithms to monitor Li-ion BESS and provide an alert to the initial venting of electrolyte solvent vapors. This early warning helps prevent fires by allowing increased time to shut down the charge to the affected rack(s) in the estimated 8-15 minutes between off-gassing of the electrolyte vapors and the beginning of thermal runaway.

The Li-ion Tamer controller is designed to diagnose when and where the off-gassing of electrolyte vapors is occurring, with an electrolyte solvent release of just a single battery cell. This enables quick alarm initiation and immediate mitigation measures such as opening louvres, engaging exhaust fans, and alerting occupants and first responders of the off-gassing event via the NOTIFIER Fire Alarm Control Panel.

"The AHJ liked the idea of providing an early warning detection system along with a means of suppression before thermal runaway," says Snow.

Still, the AHJ had to approve safety measures involving a gas detection requirement. "We had a fire protection engineer review our documents and confirm that our use of Li-ion Tamer would satisfy the AHJ's gas detection requirement for their jurisdiction. We got their blessing and approval," says Snow.

Snow states they now utilize Li-ion Tamer in the data center BESS, along with other fire detection and suppression technologies. This includes a VESDA aspirating smoke detector for early warning smoke



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detection because the heat from a combustion fire in the BESS can trigger a Li-ion thermal runaway event as well.

The VESDA VLF aspirating smoke detection system was chosen for this task. The VESDA system continuously draws in small samples of air through holes in piping or tubing and evaluates it for smoke particles at a central location. This provides very early smoke detection capability, even before smoke becomes visible. The system provides several programmable alarm thresholds that help enable a swift escalating response, which can help to stop a fire and minimize potential damage before fire suppression release.

"When combined with VESDA and fire suppression system elements, Li-ion Tamer provides the tools and the interface we need to protect BESS essentially anywhere they are installed. Li-ion Tamer is a flexible, effective option that can take the place of traditional gas detection," says Snow, adding that many BESS units will be retrofitted with this technology over the course of the next year for data centers in Virginia, Florida, Texas, and Oregon.

According to Pope, the importance of Li-ion-specific early warning detection systems will only increase, given the rapid growth of Li-ion BESS beyond data centers. Today, BESS systems are being installed by utilities, renewable energy producers, and those in the industrial, retail, defense, healthcare, and transportation sectors.

"We expect thousands of these pods to be manufactured in the next couple of years," says Pope. "It is all about effectively increasing the level of protection and decreasing the level of risk. It just makes sense for end users to protect their BESS investment."

For more information, contact Dawn Wotapka, Director of External Communications at Honeywell, 715 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308; email: dawn.wotapka@honeywell.com.

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- Less weight for the whole site
- Easy to cut and easy to drill (if necessary)
- Connections do not require jumper cables across them
- Non-magnetic properties reduce induction and electrical losses to a minimum
- Very attractive looking
- No painting required
- Never any rust or corrosion problems

Aluminum cable tray systems are clearly superior in construction and appearance to electrical raceway systems made from other metals. Zip has taken that benefit and incorporated the best product design to fully utilize the advantages of aluminium.

Wire Management at its Best with Zip

There is always a Zip cable tray and wire management solution to fit your needs.

Whether you are doing telecom work or high voltage electrical wiring, routing 1 cable or 1000's of cables, multiple levels, branching off in many different directions, Zip cable trays and cable racks will get the job done right!

We cater to many industries that all have special requirements.

Our priority is to find a cable raceway solution for your specific situation. Whether it is the low profile cable tray (BT Series) or 6" high siderail with a sweeping 36" radius, we have a solution for your project!

Zip's ladder-style cable tray is lightweight, durable

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and simple to install. With Zip cable tray and cable racking your wire management is in good hands.

#### UL Classified / CSA Approved

Zip cable tray is classified by UL and CSA/NEMA tested and approved for use in Canada and USA and complies with the electrical codes of both countries (CEC and NEC).

Powder coating with any colour is available, but note that adding a painted coating to the cable tray negates the UL and

CSA/NEMA certification! Jumper cables will need to be installed across cable tray splices to maintain electrical continuity.

#### Electrical Continuity

Zip's cable tray systems couplings do not require additional equipment grounding conductor's (EGC), also known as 'jumper cables', across splices. This is a significant cost saving. In accordance with the harmonised CSA/NEMA cable tray standard, a strict electrical continuity test was performed on all Zip cable trays. This test measures the electrical resistance across a splice and the result must be less than 0.00033 ohms!

All Zip cable trays easily passed the electrical continuity test.

Some clients create their own, much stricter standards. For example, in order to qualify for the Motorola R56 standard, jumper cable across each splice is a necessity.

#### Zip has Succeeded in Satisfying Many Industries:

- National cell phone network providers (eg: Bell, Telus, Rogers, Videotron, AT&T, Verizon Wireless, Sprint, US Cellular and T-Mobile)
- National railway company signal houses (eg: Amtrak, CN, CSX)
- Cable TV network providers (eg: CBC, RDS, Cogeco, Videotron)
- Cabling contractors
- Electrical contractors for various commercial and industrial projects, eg:
  - Factories and industrial shops
  - Solar panel installations
  - Oil fields installations
  - LAN rooms
  - Data centres
  - POP (point of presence) substations
  - Schools and universities
  - Hospitals
  - Car wash installations
  - High voltage installations/Utility

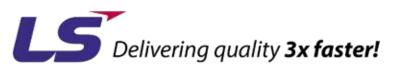
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