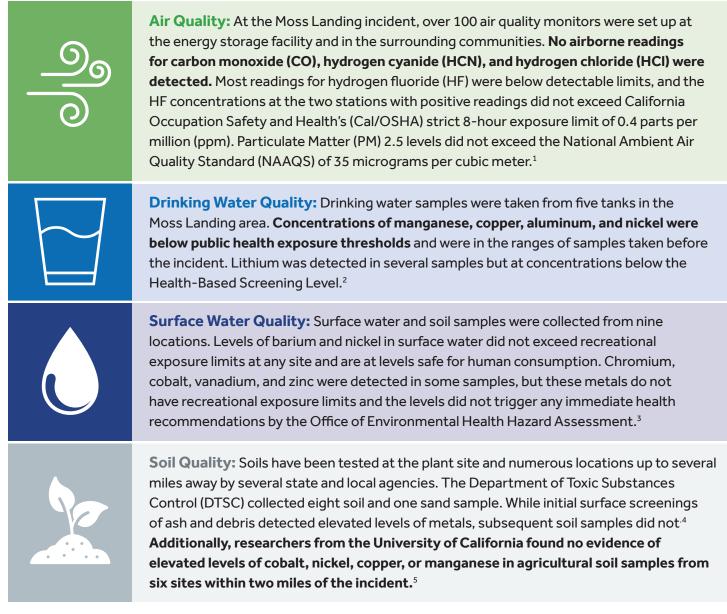


STUDIES OF BATTERY STORAGE FIRES SHOW NO PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Findings from multiple studies of air, water, and soil samples conducted during and after battery energy storage system (BESS) incidents by local, state, and federal agencies have consistently found no air emissions or run-off water contamination exceeding public health thresholds. This factsheet provides a summary of results from recent BESS fire and overheating incidents.

Moss Landing (January 2025)



Visit Monterey County's Moss Landing incident website for all study results.⁶

SDG&E Escondido Substation (September 2024)

Data released by the City of Escondido following the incident showed no readings of HF or hydrogen sulfide. The nearest air monitor was set up approximately 50 feet from the site. Some trace levels of CO and HCN, which were well below public health exposure thresholds, were detected. San Diego County Hazmat concluded that these levels were consistent with the combustion products of a normal structure fire.⁷

Analysis of runoff water samples from the Escondido incident demonstrated that levels of metals detected in the water were well below drinking water standards and the runoff water posed minimal risk to public health or the environment.⁸

Gateway (May 2024)

At the Gateway fire in San Diego County, air monitoring never detected elevated levels of toxic gases. Rob Rezende, the San Diego Fire Response expert on energy storage fires, stated that "Even during the multi-day burn of a fire at an Otay Mesa battery facility, air monitoring instruments never reported any elevated air toxicity more than 15 feet away from the burn. That's because the chemicals that burn from lithium-ion fires become lighter than air and float vertically into the atmosphere before dissipating."⁹

Other Incidents (2022-2023)

- After three incidents in 2023 in New York State, an inter-agency working group found that no harmful levels of toxins were detected in air, water, or soil samples.¹⁰
- Analysis of air and water samples following the 2022 Elkhorn fire near Moss Landing found minimal environmental impact.¹¹ There was no detectable presence of HF.¹²





CESA's commitment to safety

CESA works closely with state and local officials to update and improve BESS safety standards. CESA's member companies design and operate BESS facilities following comprehensive safety protocols and using equipment listed to UL standards. Additionally, BESS operators collaborate with local fire departments to educate them about BESS facilities and develop emergency response plans. For more information see storagealliance.org/safety-resources.





End Notes

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10 New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). 2023, December 21. "Initial Findings Released from Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group on Emergency Response." NYSERDA. <u>https://www.nyserda.</u> <u>ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2023-Announcements/2023-12-21-Governor-Hochul-Announces-Results-of-Fire-Safety-Working-Group</u>

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12 County of Monterey. 2022, September 30. "County of Monterey Environmental Health Shares Air Quality Testing Information and Process During Moss Landing Fire Incident." County of Monterey. <u>https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/Home/Components/News/News/9345/</u>



CESA is a 501c(6) membership-based advocacy group committed to advancing the role of energy storage in the electric power sector. At 80+ members strong, CESA is the definitive voice of energy storage in California. CESA's mission is to advocate for energy storage as a key resource to achieve a more affordable, efficient, reliable, safe, and sustainable electric power system for all Californians. **For more information visit storagealliance.org.**