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Code/ Section: 2018 IBC Section 703.3
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Issue:

Transient wind and earthquake loads are not required to be considered concurrently with a fire event. It is important to identify what loads the rebar within a concrete or masonry structural element is designed to resist before determining if the rebar requires cover to control temperature rise in the rebar during a fire event.

Interpretation:

If the rebar is designed only to resist wind or earthquake loads, the rebar does not require cover to control temperature rise in the rebar during a fire event.

If the rebar is designed to resist dead load, live load, snow load, or a non-transient lateral load such as soil (e.g. retaining wall), or fluid (e.g. tank), the rebar is required to be provided with cover to control temperature rise in the rebar during a fire event.

If cover is required to control the temperature rise in the rebar during a fire event, the required cover can be determined by the methods or procedures listed in Section 703.3.