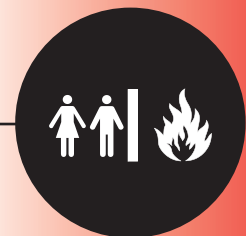
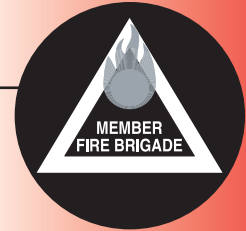


# Fire Brigades

**Chapter 296-811 WAC**  
March 2006 Edition

**Washington Industrial  
Safety & Health Act**



# **Standards Update to Chapter 296-811 WAC, Fire Brigades**

Issue Date 3/2006  
Effective Date 3/1/2006

The Department of Labor and Industries has rewritten and reorganized for clarity and ease of use the safety standards for Fire Brigades. The department has repealed the rule in chapter 296-24 and adopted Fire Brigades as chapter 296-811 WAC.

**Please discard WAC 296-24-58505 through 296-24-58517.**

To receive future updates of this standard and all other Department of Labor and Industries safety and health standards electronically, please sign up on the WISHA Listserv (<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Rules/default.htm>). By subscribing to the Listserv, you will also receive rule updates, hearing notices, and informational packets for all safety and health rules.

Also available on the WISHA web site:

- WISHA Core Rules
- Other General WISHA Rules
- Industry and Task-specific Rules
- Proposed rules and hearings
- Newly adopted rules and new rule information
- WISHA Regional Directives (WRDs)
- WISHA Interim Operations and Interpretive Memoranda (WIIM)
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

To receive hardcopy updates of this rule, please return the card located at the back of the book.

### Other Rules that may apply to your workplace

- The WISHA Safety and Health Core Rules, Chapter 296-800 WAC, contain the basic requirements that apply to most employers in Washington. They also contain:
  - An Introduction that lists important information you should know, including a section on building, fire and electrical codes.
  - A Resource section that includes a complete list of all WISHA rules and a directory of the Labor and Industries (L&I) offices.
- Other WISHA rules may apply to you, depending on the activities and operations of your workplace. Contact your local L&I office if you're uncertain about which WISHA requirements apply to you.
- To go online to access all the Safety and Health Rules: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha>
- If you would like to receive e-mail notification of rule updates, please register for the Standards Listserv on the WISHA web site at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/home/listservs.htm>
- For a CD or paper copy contact us by:

Mail: Department of Labor and Industries  
P.O. Box 44620  
Olympia, WA 98504-4620

Telephone: 1-800-4BE-SAFE (1-800-423-7233)

# Fire Brigades

Chapter 296-811 WAC

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# Fire Brigades

Chapter 296-811 WAC

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# Fire Brigades

WAC 296-811-100

## Scope

Scope



This chapter applies if you choose to establish a fire brigade.



### Definition:

A *fire brigade* is an organized group of employees whose primary employment is other than fire fighting but who are knowledgeable, trained, and skilled in specialized fire fighting operations based on site-specific hazards present at a single commercial facility or facilities under the same management.



### Note:

Nothing in this chapter requires you to establish an employee fire brigade.

# Notes

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# Establishing a Fire Brigade

WAC 296-811-200

## Section Contents

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To decide on brigade functions in the workplace and make sure  
brigade members are capable of doing them**

Organizing statement WAC 296-811-20005 .....	200-2
Physical capability of brigade members WAC 296-811-20010 .....	200-3



# Establishing a Fire Brigade

WAC 296-811-200

## Rule

WAC 296-811-20005

### Organizing statement

#### You must

- Develop a written fire brigade policy that's available for inspection by employees or their designated representatives, that covers all of the following:
  - The role and responsibilities of the fire brigade in the workplace.
  - The basic organizational structure of the fire brigade.
  - The number of brigade members.
  - Type, amount, and frequency of training for brigade members according to the section *Fire fighting training*, WAC 296-811-30010, in this chapter.



#### Note:

You may also want to include:

- Descriptions of brigade member duties.
- Line authority of each brigade officer.
- Number of brigade officers.
- Number of training instructors.



# Establishing a Fire Brigade

WAC 296-811-200

## Rule

WAC 296-811-20010

### Physical capability of brigade members

#### You must

- Make sure brigade members who are assigned to fight interior structural fires are physically capable of doing this activity.
  - Don't permit employees with known physical limitations that can be reasonably identified, such as heart disease or seizure disorder, to participate in structural fire fighting activities unless the employee has been released by a physician to do so.



#### Note:

Not all brigade members need to be physically capable of fighting interior structural fires. Brigade members who aren't physically capable of fighting interior structural fires may be assigned to other brigade duties that match their physical capabilities, such as pump operation or fire prevention inspection.



# Notes

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# Training

WAC 296-811-300

## Section Contents

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To inform brigade members of special hazards in the workplace  
and train them for their brigade functions**

Special hazards WAC 296-811-30005 .....	300-2
Fire fighting training WAC 296-811-30010 .....	300-3



# Training

WAC 296-811-300

## Rule

WAC 296-811-30005

### Special hazards

#### You must

- Develop, include in training, and make available to brigade members, written procedures that describe the following:
  - The special hazards they may encounter in their workplace.
  - The actions they need to take in situations that involve these hazards.
- Inform brigade members of any changes to those hazards, or the actions to take, when changes happen.
  - Examples of special hazards include storing and using flammable liquids and gases, toxic chemicals, and radioactive substances.



WAC 296-811-30010

### Fire fighting training

#### You must

- Make sure training that a brigade member receives elsewhere that meets one or more requirements in Table 1, Training for brigade members, has been:
  - Received within the past year
  - Documented as having been received, such as with a completion certificate.
- Provide training frequently enough to keep brigade members able to do their functions satisfactorily and safely.



#### Note:

You may choose to train more often, monthly or even weekly, for some equipment or techniques. Consult fire training resources, such as the International Fire Service Training Association, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), or the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, for recommendations about fire training schools or programs.

– Continued–



# Training

WAC 296-811-300

## Rule

WAC 296-811-30010

### Fire fighting training (Continued)

#### You must

- Make sure brigade members are trained according to Table 1, Training for Brigade Members.

**Table 1**  
**Training for Brigade Members**

For these brigade members	Provide training that's	At these times
All brigade members, including leaders, trainers, and incident commanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Appropriate to their assigned duties and functions</li><li>- Appropriate to special hazards in the workplace.</li><li>- Similar to that of reputable fire training schools</li><li>- A combination of hands-on and classroom experiences.</li><li>- Suited to the industry you are part of, such as oil refining or chemical processing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Initially before they do any fire brigade emergency activities <b>and</b></li><li>- Every year after initial training</li></ul>
Brigade members assigned to do interior structural fire fighting	All of the above <b>plus</b> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Specific training in interior structural fire fighting</li></ul>	All of the above <b>plus</b> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Every quarter</li></ul>
Brigade members assigned as leaders, training instructors, or both	All of the above <b>plus</b> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Additional training that's more comprehensive than that of other brigade members and appropriate to their assigned duties and functions</li></ul>	As needed to maintain their expertise at a higher level than that of other brigade members



# Equipment

WAC 296-811-400

## Section Contents

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To provide brigade members with equipment and protective clothing appropriate for their brigade functions

Fire fighting equipment WAC 296-811-40005 .....	400-2
Protective clothing WAC 296-811-40010 .....	400-3
Self-contained breathing apparatus' (SCBAs) WAC 296-811-40015 .....	400-4



# Equipment

WAC 296-811-400

## Rule

WAC 296-811-40005

### Fire fighting equipment

#### You must

- Provide appropriate fire fighting equipment for the fire brigade.
- Inspect and maintain brigade fire fighting equipment according to Table 2, Fire Brigade Equipment Inspection and Maintenance.

For this equipment	Do the following
All brigade fire fighting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Inspect at least every year.</li><li>- Maintain in safe operating condition.</li><li>- Replace if damaged or in unsafe condition.</li></ul>
Brigade respirators and portable fire extinguishers	Inspect at least every month and after each use

WAC 296-811-40010

### Protective clothing

#### You must

- Provide appropriate protective clothing for fire brigade members who do interior structural fire fighting. Make sure protective clothing is:
  - Provided at no cost.
  - Meets the requirements for foot, body, hand, eye, face, and head protection found in another chapter, Safety Standards for Fire Fighters, Chapter 296-305 WAC.



#### Exemption:

Protective clothing requirements don't apply to the following fire brigade members:

- Those who don't perform interior structural fire fighting.
- Those who use only standpipe systems or portable fire extinguishers to control or put out fires that are in the incipient stage only.



# Equipment

WAC 296-811-400

## Rule

WAC 296-811-40015

### Self-contained breathing apparatus' (SCBAs)

- Provide SCBAs, other than escape self-contained breathing apparatus' (ESCBAs), and make sure they are used by each fire brigade member who does interior structural fire fighting.
- Make sure SCBAs do the following:
  - Meet the requirements found in chapter 296-842 WAC, Respirators.
  - Are positive-pressure or pressure-demand type.
  - Use only compressed-air cylinders that:
    - Meet department of transportation (DOT) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requirements.
  - Have a service life of at least 30 minutes, as required by 42 CFR, Part 84.
  - Have an automatic alarm that can be heard when 75 to 80 percent of its service life has been used up.



#### Note:

An SCBA can have a quick-disconnect valve or "buddy breathing" accessory **only if** the valve or accessory **doesn't** do any of the following:

- Damage the SCBA
- Restrict the SCBA's air flow
- Interfere with the SCBA's normal operation
- The "buddy breathing" accessory or quick-disconnect valve need not be certified by NIOSH

# Requirements During Fire Fighting

WAC 296-811-500

## Section Contents

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To make sure brigade members use safe practices during interior structural fire fighting**

Brigade members in interior structural fires

WAC 296-811-50005 ..... 500-2



# Requirements During Fire Fighting

WAC 296-811-500

## Rule

WAC 296-811-50005

### Brigade members in interior structural fires

#### IMPORTANT:

Nothing in this section is meant to prevent fire brigade members assigned to respond to fires from rescue activities in an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) atmosphere before the whole team assigned to respond to fires has arrived.

#### You must

- Make sure at least 2 qualified fire brigade members go together into an IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with each other at all times.
- Maintain standby assistance, with two people, as required by another section, Standby requirements for immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) conditions, WAC 296-842-19005.



#### Note:

One of the 2 brigade members providing standby assistance can be assigned another role, such as safety officer, as long as the safety or health of any fire fighter working the incident won't be jeopardized if the brigade member becomes unavailable through giving assistance or rescue.



#### Reference:

More information on interior structural fires is located in another section, WAC 296-305-05001, Emergency Fireground Operations-Structural.



## Definitions

### Buddy-breathing device

An equipment accessory for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that permits a second person (a "buddy") to share the air supply used by the SCBA wearer.

### Extinguisher classification

The letter classification given an extinguisher to designate the class or classes of fires on which that extinguisher will be effective. For example, use a Class A extinguisher on a Class A fire. See also fire classifications.

Portable fire extinguishers are classified for use on certain classes of fires and are rated within that class for relative extinguishing effectiveness at a temperature of plus 70° F by nationally recognized testing laboratories. This is based upon fire classifications and fire extinguishment potentials as determined by fire tests.

#### Note:

The classification and rating system described in this section is used by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., and Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, and is based on extinguishing preplanned fires of determined size and description as follows:

Extinguisher Class	Fire Test for Classification and Rating
Class A	Wood and excelsior fires excluding deep-seated conditions.
Class B	Two-inch depth gasoline fires in square pans.
Class C	No fire test. Agent must be a nonconductor of electricity.
Class D	Special tests on specific combustible metal fires.

### Extinguisher rating (see also "extinguisher classification")

The numerical rating, such as 2A, given to an extinguisher that indicates the extinguishing potential of the unit based on standardized tests developed by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.



# Fire Brigades

WAC 296-811-600

## Definitions

### Fire brigade

An organized group of employees whose primary employment is other than fire fighting but who are knowledgeable, trained, and skilled in specialized fire fighting operations based on site-specific hazards present at a single commercial facility or facilities under the same management.

### Fire classifications

Fires are classified based on the types of burning materials:

Fire Class	Types of Burning Materials
<b>Class A</b>	Fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cloth, and some rubber and plastic materials.
<b>Class B</b>	Fires involving flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gases, greases, and similar materials, and some rubber and plastic materials.
<b>Class C</b>	Fires involving energized (live) electrical equipment where it's important that the extinguishing agent not conduct electricity. (When electrical equipment is de-energized, it's safe to use an extinguisher for Class A or B fires on it, since electricity isn't an issue then.)
<b>Class D</b>	Fire involving combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium.

### Incipient fire stage

A fire in the beginning stage that can be controlled or put out by portable fire extinguishers, or small hose systems, without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.



# Fire Brigades

WAC 296-811-600

## Definitions

### Inspection

A visual check of fire protection systems and equipment to ensure they are in place, charged, and ready for use if there is a fire.

### Interior structural fire fighting

The physical activity of suppressing fire, rescuing people, or both, inside buildings or enclosed structures involved in a fire that's past the incipient stage.

### Maintenance

Servicing fire protection equipment and systems to ensure they will perform as expected if there is a fire. Maintenance differs from inspection in that maintenance requires checking internal fittings, devices, and agent supplies, as well as correcting deficiencies found.

### Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in which the air pressure in the breathing zone is higher than that of the immediate environment during both inhaling and exhaling.







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# Fire Brigades

## Chapter 296-811 WAC

### Statutory Authority

#### **296-811-100 Scope.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-100, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-200 Establishing a fire brigade.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-200, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-20005 Organizing statement.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-20005, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-20010 Physical capability of brigade members.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-20010, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-300 Training.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-300, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-30005 Special hazards.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-30005, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-30010 Fire fighting training.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-30010, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-400 Equipment.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-400, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-40005 Fire fighting equipment.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-40005, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-40010 Protective clothing.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-40010, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-40015 Self-contained breathing apparatus' (SCBAs).**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 09-15-145 (Order 09-04), § 296-811-40015, filed 07/21/09, effective 09/01/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-40015, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-500 Requirements during fire fighting.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-500, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-50005 Brigade members in interior structural fires.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-50005, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

#### **296-811-600 Definitions.**

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-01-073 (Order 05-20), § 296-811-600, filed 12/20/05, effective 03/01/06]

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# Notes

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