

**WAC 296-304-01013 Fire response. (1) Employer responsibilities.**

You must:

(a) Decide what type of response will be provided and who will provide it; and

(b) Create, maintain, and update a written policy that:

(i) Describes the internal and outside fire response organizations that you will use; and

(ii) Defines what evacuation procedures employees must follow, if you choose to require a total or partial evacuation of the worksite at the time of a fire.

(2) **Required written policy information.**

(a) **Internal fire response.** If an internal fire response is to be used, you must include the following information in your written policy:

(i) The basic structure of the fire response organization;

(ii) The number of trained fire response employees;

(iii) The fire response functions that may need to be carried out;

(iv) The minimum number of fire response employees necessary, the number and types of apparatuses, and a description of the fire suppression operations established by written standard operating procedures for each type of fire response at the employer's facility;

(v) The type, amount, and frequency of training that must be given to fire response employees; and

(vi) The procedures for using protective clothing and equipment.

(b) **Outside fire response.** If an outside fire response organization is used, you must include the following information in the written policy:

(i) The types of fire suppression incidents to which the fire response organization is expected to respond at your facility or worksite;

(ii) The liaisons between you and the outside fire response organizations; and

(iii) A plan for fire response functions that:

(A) Addresses procedures for obtaining assistance from the outside fire response organization;

(B) Familiarizes the outside fire response organization with the layout of your facility or worksite, including access routes to controlled areas, and site-specific operations, occupancies, vessels or vessel sections, and hazards; and

(C) Sets forth how hose and coupling connection threads are to be made compatible and includes where the adapter couplings are kept; or

(D) States that you will not allow the use of incompatible hose connections.

(c) **A combination of internal and outside fire response.** If a combination of internal and outside fire response is to be used, you must include the following information, in addition to the requirements in (a) and (b) of this subsection, in the written policy:

(i) The basic organizational structure of the combined fire response;

(ii) The number of combined trained fire responders;

(iii) The fire response functions that may need to be carried out;

(iv) The minimum number of fire response employees necessary, the number and types of apparatuses, and a description of the fire suppression operations established by written standard operating procedures for each particular type of fire response at the worksite; and

- (v) The type, amount, and frequency of joint training with outside fire response organizations if given to fire response employees.
- (d) **Employee evacuation.** You must include the following information in your written policy:
  - (i) Emergency escape procedures;
  - (ii) Procedures to be followed by employees who may remain longer at the worksite to perform critical shipyard employment operations during the evacuation;
  - (iii) Procedures to account for all employees after emergency evacuation is completed;
  - (iv) The preferred means of reporting fires and other emergencies; and
  - (v) Names or job titles of the employees or departments to be contacted for further information or explanation of duties.
- (e) **Rescue and emergency response.** You must include the following information in your written policy:
  - (i) A description of the emergency rescue procedures; and
  - (ii) Names or job titles of the employees who are assigned to perform them.
- (3) **Medical requirements for shipyard fire response employees.** You must ensure that:
  - (a) All fire response employees receive medical examinations to assure that they are physically and medically fit for the duties they are expected to perform;
  - (b) Fire response employees, who are required to wear respirators in performing their duties, meet the medical requirements of chapter 296-842 WAC, Respirators;
  - (c) Each fire response employee has an annual medical examination; and
  - (d) The medical records of fire response employees are kept in accordance with chapter 296-802 WAC, Employee medical and exposure records.
- (4) **Organization of internal fire response functions.** You must:
  - (a) Organize fire response functions to ensure enough resources to conduct emergency operations safely;
  - (b) Establish lines of authority and assign responsibilities to ensure that the components of the internal fire response are accomplished;
  - (c) Set up an incident management system to coordinate and direct fire response functions, including:
    - (i) Specific fire emergency responsibilities;
    - (ii) Accountability for all fire response employees participating in an emergency operation; and
    - (iii) Resources offered by outside organizations; and
  - (d) Provide the information required in this subsection to the outside fire response organization to be used.
- (5) **Personal protective clothing and equipment for fire response employees.**
  - (a) General requirements. You must:
    - (i) Supply to all fire response employees, at no cost, the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment they may need to perform expected duties; and
    - (ii) Ensure that fire response employees wear the appropriate personal protective clothing and use the equipment, when necessary, to protect them from hazardous exposures.
  - (b) Thermal stability and flame resistance. You must:

(i) Ensure that each fire response employee exposed to the hazards of flame does not wear clothing that could increase the extent of injury that could be sustained; and

(ii) Prohibit wearing clothing made from acetate, nylon, or polyester, either alone or in blends, unless it can be shown that:

(A) The fabric will withstand the flammability hazard that may be encountered; or

(B) The clothing will be worn in such a way to eliminate the flammability hazard that may be encountered.

(c) Respiratory protection. You must:

(i) Provide self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to all fire response employees involved in an emergency operation in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH), potentially IDLH, or unknown;

(ii) Provide SCBA to fire response employees performing emergency operations during hazardous chemical emergencies that will expose them to known hazardous chemicals in vapor form or to unknown chemicals;

(iii) Provide fire response employees who perform or support emergency operations that will expose them to hazardous chemicals in liquid form either:

(A) SCBA; or

(B) Respiratory protective devices certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under 42 C.F.R. Part 84 as suitable for the specific chemical environment;

(iv) Ensure that additional outside air supplies used in conjunction with SCBA result in positive pressure systems that are certified by NIOSH under 42 C.F.R. Part 84;

(v) Provide only SCBA that meet the requirements of NFPA 1981-2002 Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service (incorporated by reference, see WAC 296-304-01003); and

(vi) Ensure that the respiratory protection program and all respiratory protection equipment comply with chapter 296-842 WAC, Respiratory protection.

(d) Interior structural firefighting operations. You must:

(i) Supply at no cost to all fire response employees exposed to the hazards of shipyard fire response, a helmet, gloves, footwear, and protective hoods, and either a protective coat and trousers or a protective overall; and

(ii) Ensure that this equipment meets the applicable recommendations in NFPA 1971-2000 Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Firefighting (incorporated by reference, see WAC 296-304-01003).

(e) Proximity firefighting operations. You must provide, at no cost, to all fire response employees who are exposed to the hazards of proximity firefighting, appropriate protective proximity clothing that meets the applicable recommendations in NFPA 1976-2000 Standard on Protective Ensemble for Proximity Firefighting (incorporated by reference, see WAC 296-304-01003).

(f) Personal alert safety system (PASS) devices. You must:

(i) Provide each fire response employee involved in firefighting operations with a PASS device; and

(ii) Ensure that each PASS device meets the recommendations in NFPA 1982-1998 Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) (incorporated by reference, see WAC 296-304-01003).

(g) Life safety ropes, body harnesses, and hardware. You must ensure that:

(i) All life safety ropes, body harnesses, and hardware used by fire response employees for emergency operations meet the applicable recommendations in NFPA 1983-2001, Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope and System Components (incorporated by reference, see WAC 296-304-01003);

(ii) Fire response employees use only Class I body harnesses to attach to ladders and aerial devices; and

(iii) Fire response employees use only Class II and Class III body harnesses for fall arrest and rappelling operations.

(6) **Equipment maintenance.**

(a) **Personal protective equipment.** You must inspect and maintain personal protective equipment used to protect fire response employees to ensure that it provides the intended protection.

(b) **Fire response equipment.** You must:

(i) Keep fire response equipment in a state of readiness;

(ii) Standardize all fire hose coupling and connection threads throughout the facility and on vessels and vessel sections by providing the same type of hose coupling and connection threads for hoses of the same or similar diameter; and

(iii) Ensure that either all fire hoses and coupling connection threads are the same within a facility or vessel or vessel section as those used by the outside fire response organization, or supply suitable adapter couplings if such an organization is expected to use the fire response equipment within a facility or vessel or vessel section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-304-01013, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; WSR 07-17-034, § 296-304-01013, filed 8/7/07, effective 12/1/07; WSR 05-19-086, § 296-304-01013, filed 9/20/05, effective 12/1/05.]