

Topic Outline for Being Prepared for Workplace Emergencies

For the wine industry there are two main sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that apply. 296-307 for Agriculture and 296-800 for General Industry. Most wineries fall under General Industry so that is the focus of this outline.

Definition: Winery owners and/or managers are not only required to maintain a safe work environment but, they are also required to prepare for all types of emergencies that could occur within the facility. All sizes of wineries, from small owner/winemaker operations to much larger facilities, should have a plan that addresses workplace emergencies.

Examples in a Winery: A fire, chemical release, medical emergency, or a natural disaster such as an earthquake.

Regulatory Summary (with emphasis on application for wineries covered under general industry):

1. While winery emergencies are rare, it is important to plan for and practice response procedures. A review of violations in Washington State from June 2003 to June 2013 found that there were eight were issued for not inspecting and testing all portable fire extinguishers (WAC 296-800-30020). Three violations were issued for failing to mark exits adequately (296-800-31050)
2. DOSH provides standards for emergency response in WAC 296-800 safe workplace, WAC 296-800-11005 maintaining a workplace free from hazards, and 296-824 emergency response. WAC 296-800 are the Core Rules, whereas WAC 296-824 is the section of the WAC that has Emergency Response.
3. Wineries must have a written plan on workplace emergencies and provide documented training. As long as your written plan meets all the requirements under the code, it can be a section or chapter within the written Accident Prevention Program (APP). To keep your workplace safe, all winery employees, including temporary employees, should be provided documented training on emergencies that could arise. The documented training should include:
 - Emergency recognition or how to identify emergencies could arise within your winery.
 - Immediate emergency response including methods of alerting other employees of the emergency (example – pulling fire alarm pull station, blowing a whistle or air horn).
 - Evacuation or exits route based on the situation and gathering location(s). Create and post evacuation maps. May vary depending on type of emergency (fire/chemical/natural disaster). Evacuation location must be a safe location and distance based on the type of emergency (example – you want your evacuation location for a fire to be in a location where the responding fire truck can see the group of employees and verify that everyone is out of the building). This is important so that they can address the fire rather than looking for people. Additionally you don't want to have your evacuation location downwind of an air borne chemical release.
 - Procedures for shutting down processes or closing emergency valves or other critical actions to secure operations or prevent incident from increasing in severity if applicable.

- Instruction on how to use, and location of, emergency equipment within the winery (pull stations/air horns/fire extinguishers)
- Details on the maintenance schedule of emergency equipment (inspection/testing of fire extinguishers, emergency lights, fire suppression and enunciation devices, first aid equipment)
- Inspect exit routes and doors (make sure they are always kept clear/not blocked/unlocked from inside) and ensure that emergency evacuation notification devices (pull stations/air horns) are accessible
- Inform contractors of what to do in the event of an emergency, where to evacuate to and who to check in with at the evaluation location; cover all types of emergencies that could exist within your winery
- The plan must be available to all employees, employee representatives and L & I personnel to view/review

4. WAC 296-824 Emergency Response, applies if your employees are, or could become, involved in responding to uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances in your workplace or other location. Use the flow chart in WAC 296-824-100 to determine if this Chapter of the WAC applies. A written Emergency Response plan must be available to all employees, employee or L & I representatives to view/review. Requirements under this under this code are:

- Make sure employees participating in the emergency response are appropriately trained for their assigned roles and duties, including (WAC 296-824-300):
 - Initial training
 - Certification of the employee training (documented with demonstrated competency)
 - Retraining annually (documented with demonstrated competency)
 - Trainers must be qualified
- To provide and document medical surveillance (WAC 296-824-400)
- Conduct and manage emergency response operations so employees are protected from hazardous substances and conditions (WAC 296-824-500); Responders must be able to:
 - Recognize emergencies and initiate response (WAC 296-824-50005)
 - Implement and maintain an incident command system (ICS) (WAC 296-824-50020)
 - Make sure the incident commander oversees activities during the response (WAC 296-824-50020)
 - Use the buddy system in danger areas (WAC 296-824-50025)
 - Provide rescue and medical assistance (WAC 296-824-50030)
- Provide personal protective equipment and make sure it's used properly (WAC 296-824-60005)
- To protect employees during post emergency response activities following appropriate work practices, timing, and other requirements (WAC 296-824-700) In other words take the time to complete the response, decontaminate people and equipment, and complete a review of the response. Discuss what went well and what could be improved on.

5. Separate downloadable documents are provided at the following links and under the Winery Safety tab at www.winerywise.com:

- **Developing Emergency Response Plans**
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/DOSH/rules/emergencyresponse/Helpfultools/DevelopingEmergencyResponsePlans.htm>
- **Core Rules [WAC 296-800](#)**
 - **Requirements for portable fire extinguishers [WAC 296-800-30020](#)**
 - **Requirements for emergency exits [WAC 296-800-31050](#)**
 - **Requirements for maintaining a workplace free from hazards [WAC 296-800-11005](#)**
- **Emergency Response; hazardous or uncontrolled release [WAC 296-824](#)**