

WAC 296-811-099 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 brigade. An organized group of employees whose primary employment is other than firefighting but who are knowledgeable, trained, and skilled in specialized firefighting 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
Class A	Fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cloth, and some rubber and plastic materials.
Class B	Fires involving flammable liquids, flammable gases, greases, and similar materials, and some rubber and plastic materials.
Class C	Fires involving energized (live) electrical equipment where it is important that the extinguishing agent not conduct electricity. (When electrical equipment is deenergized, it is safe to use an extinguisher for Class A or B fires on it, since electricity is not an issue then.)
Class D	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.

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 firefighting. The physical activity of suppressing fire, rescuing people, or both, inside buildings or enclosed structures involved in a fire that is 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). An atmosphere-supplying respirator designed for the breathing air source to be carried by the user.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 20-03-154, § 296-811-099, filed 1/21/20, effective 2/21/20; WSR 17-18-075, § 296-811-099, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17.]