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# Emergency loans made to eight villages for fuel

Since freeze-up last fall, RurAL CAP, through its energy department, has made loans to eight villages around the state to be used in the purchase of fuel products.

These interest-free emergency loans are designed to assist villages suffering critical shortages in winter fuel supplies to procure enough stove oil and gasoline to make it through the winter.

Villages that have received RurAL CAP loans are Perryville and Ivanof Bay on the Alaska Peninsula; Karluk on Kodiak Island; Manokotak in the Bristol Bay; Newtok, Chefnak and Pilot Station in the Calista Region; and Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginhyke in Fort Yukon.

In many cases a RurAL CAP fuel loan, which cannot exceed \$3,000, is only a partial solution to a village's fuel problem.

In Chefnak, for instance, a loan was used to fly 2,222 gallons of fuel into the village of Bethel, but because this was not sufficient to meet this winter's need an arrangement was made whereby BIA loaned fuel from their tanks in the nearby village of Kwigillingok to the Village Council so that Kwigillingok could turn around and sell the fuel to Chefnak.

Able residents of Chefnak can travel to Kwigillingok to procure additional fuel, or to Nightmute, another nearby village which is fortunate in having excess fuel on hand this year.

The story of Chefnak's fuel problem is typical of what occurs in many villages. The logistics of alleviating a shortage may be complicated and many different sources may have to be tapped. RurAL CAP is pleased to be one such source.

The staff of the RurAL CAP Energy Office would like to thank the hard working staff of RDA for their support in attempting to resolve these critical rural energy problems.