

Unalakleet Day School Closed to Meet Fire Codes

Unalakleet's 40-year-old elementary school closed Friday for renovations, mainly those involved with bringing the building up to fire code standards. It was, according to Area Superintendent Robert Davis, "too much of a risk to keep in operation."

"We are on record as viewing the school as a potential fire hazard. We hope it's only closed a short period," said Davis. He noted that it would probably be 30 days or 45 at the most before the school is reopened.

Run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the school serves approximately 170 child-

ren. They range from kindergarten up through sixth grade. While their building is closed, they will attend classes in the junior-high school building.

Since the junior high is only set up to handle five or six grades, the move will require some shuffling of schedules.

Double shifting, while not desirable because of lost class time, will probably be the answer.

A new fire door is being put into the old school, as well as a sprinkler system and a room-to-room detection and warning system. Plans were made for

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these this summer, and work started. A visit from the safety officer to determine minimum safety levels got things started.

Workers have been bogged down by several small problems, such as a month-long delay in getting needed supplies. But the progress continues.

Two construction levels are set up by the BIA. This particular project falls under the major alterations improvement section and depends on congressional appropriations. It will cost between \$40-45,000 to complete.

In time, the BIA hopes to build an all-new school in Unalakleet. Meanwhile, the one standing will, with improvements, have to stay.