

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Gathering: CAP & AEO— Comprehensive Fuel Data

RurAL CAP and the Alaska Energy Office are jointly gathering comprehensive fuel data throughout the state. This information is important in order to effectively promote energy legislation during the next session of the legislature.

The RurAL CAP Energy Program will hopefully be continued for another year. As we get further into winter there will be villages with severe fuel

problems again because of inadequate fuel delivery, no funds (distributors will no longer extend credit), inadequate storage facilities, and new development creating more energy consumption.

One of the more popular methods of energy conservation is winterization. Anyone can, with a minimal amount of labor and insulation, start to make the home energy more

efficient. Here is one good winterizing tip from the desk of Mary Stachelrodt, Rural Energy Coordinator.

Remove interior molding around the windows, chink with fiberglass insulating material, and put the molding back on. Weatherstripping your door also saves on heat loss. Chinking around the outside doors after you remove the molding is a good remedy, too.

Confab Will Be in Anchorage Dec. 5-7

One in a series of Legislative Conferences sponsored by RurAL CAP, AFN, and the State Department of Community & Regional Affairs will occur on Dec. 5, 6 and 7 in Anchorage at the International Inn.

The purpose of the conference will be to acquaint rural participants with the state legislative process, review pending legislation, discuss additional problems confronting rural peoples, and propose legislative solutions.

Workshops will be set around the problems of housing and community facilities; education; Fish and Game; Health and Social Services; local government; Bush Justice; and transportation/communication.

Village residents, state legislators and regional Native leaders are being encouraged to attend. Other participants will be the board members of RurAL CAP and the State Policy Council (Head Start), which plan to have their quarterly board meeting in Anchorage at that time.

Further details will follow in future news articles.

Preventing Fires Matter of Life— Importance of 'Safety Tips'

The following safety practices on UPKEEP OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT were supplied by the Standard Oil Company of California in their MARKETING SAFE PRACTICE HANDBOOK at a recent ANICA meeting in Kenai.

1. FIRE PROTECTION

A. It is your duty to guard against fire in every possible way; first, by proper handling of all combustible materials, and second, by elimination of all possible sources of ignition in the presence of flammable vapors.

B. "Strike anywhere" or non-safety matches and unsheathed cigarette and torch

lighters are prohibited around the plant.

C. Smoking is prohibited within the plant yard, while driving delivery equipment, and during the delivery of products. Watch for smoking on the part of customers or the public and courteously warn them of the danger.

D. Report all oil, gas, vapor leaks, or other fire hazards you may observe to your supervisor. Oil spills should be cleaned up and gasoline spills flushed away with water immediately.

E. Good housekeeping is also good fire protection, especially in and around the warehouse, pump house, unloading headers

and loading rack.

F. Place paint or oil soaked rags in covered metal containers to prevent danger of spontaneous combustion. Containers should be emptied daily and contents disposed of in a safe manner.

G. Do not place bottles or similar glass containers in the direct rays of the sun where they may act as lenses and ignite adjacent combustible material.

H. Fire projection and fire fighting equipment after any use shall promptly be again made serviceable and restored to its proper location.

I. Maintain clear spaces around and ready access to fire extinguishing equipment.

2. FIRE EXTINGUISHMENT

A. Familiarize yourself with the location and correct use of various types of extinguishers as explained in the operating manual.

B. Water dispensed from a garden hose, equipped with an adjustable nozzle, can be particularly useful to wash away spills before fire occurs or to wash burning oils away from structures which might be endangered by fire.

3. FLOORS, PLATFORMS AND LADDERS

A. Keep floors, walkways, stairs and platforms clean and free from projecting nails, broken or splintered boards, broken handrails, etc.

B. Do not use defective or worn out ladders. When using ladders always face the ladder and have both hands free to grasp the stringers; do not attempt to perform work by reaching out from the side of a ladder. Either obtain a portable ladder, or if working from a portable ladder, move the ladder. All portable ladders shall be provided with some effective means to prevent slipping (ladder shoes or sharp points on feet). Ladders should not be used in doorways unless a second employee is guarding the base of the ladder. Portable work ladders should be kept coated with a hard transparent protective material, such as varnish or floor hardener rather than paint, as paint may hide defects.

There will be more to come in future Tundra Times articles on safety tips and practices.

Copper River Native Association Conducts Meeting

The Copper River Native Association Board of Directors met on Oct. 11 in a quarterly meeting and discussed the full range of the corporation's programs.

Board members present were Herb Smelcer, president; Harding Ewan, vice-president; Harry Johns, Sr. of Copper Center; Fred John, Jr. of Mentasta; Chris Gene of Gakona; and Markle Ewan of Gulkana.

The president introduced guests, who included Kay Moor and Nick Landis from RurAL CAP and Chuck Orr from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Wilbur Joe, who took over the position of executive director at the beginning of September, reported on CRNA's Johnson-O'Malley Bicultural Program, which is funded for \$125,000 this year, and the Day Care Center which is now in operation.

The day care facility was set up with a loan from Ahtna, Inc., and the staff is being funded by a combination of CRNA's-CETA funds and State Department of Labor money.

The Aging Program was recently reviewed by state officials and found to be operating smoothly, according to the executive director.

Bob Woodward, who recently joined the CRNA staff as health director, discussed his AFN-funded program which is initiating health planning for the region.

The first phase of the planning will involve development of a health policy statement for board approval, establishment of an advisory health council, and a health needs assessment.

At the same time, the Health Department will be attempting to find funding and staff for village health clinics in the region.

Thea Smelcer discussed the pipeline impact program which will end on Oct. 31, at which time a wrap-up report will be presented to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the board. The pipeline, Mrs. Smelcer said, has had a large, and not always good, impact on the region.

Harry Johns, Sr., who is CRNA's representative on the RurAL CAP Board, gave the highlights of RurAL CAP's Annual Board Meeting in Kotzebue in September. Mr. Johns noted that subsistence problems, such as the depletion of moose in the Ahtna region, were an area of concern at the Kotzebue meeting.

Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP's energy director, informed the board of the status of the Winterization Program in the region. Each village has a carpenter, funded by CRNA's-CETA funds, who will be winterizing homes of low-income families using materials bought with the project's \$80,000. Some material had already arrived in Copper Center, where work has begun.

Herb Smelcer reported on recent hearings on decentralization of the SOS school system. Those present at the hearings were generally in agreement on which villages should be in the regional education area, although there were mixed views on the number of board members and sections.

On a related matter, CRNA is working on refunding for a high school counselor position which, it was felt, was effective in combating the region's dropout problem.

The meeting was adjourned, but not before the board set Saturday, Nov. 22, as the date for CRNA's annual meeting which is scheduled to be held in Copper Center.



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