

RurAL CAP hires fire prevention specialist

Mr. Hubert Angaiak originally from Bethel has been hired (through a joint effort on the part of RurAL CAP and the State Dept. of Education) as a rural community Fire Prevention/Protection Instructor.

Angaiak will begin his new position on July 6, with two weeks of orientation and training in Juneau with the Division of Fire Prevention and Fire Service Training personnel. Following the orientation period, Angaiak will be based at RurAL CAP's central office in Anchorage, though most of his time will be spent traveling, beginning in the Bethel area.

In 1974 there were 190 fires in rural Alaskan single family dwellings at a cost of \$1,752,589. 30% of all fires reported in the State occurred in rural communities. The fire fatality rate is equally grim. Over half of the deaths reported in Alaska from fires occurred in rural areas—including many children and elderly adults.

The purpose of the trainer's position is to provide an instructor with the capability of teaching basic fire suppression techniques to fire departments in rural communities. He will also advise community leaders as to how to organize a fire department, equipment requirements, State and Federal assistance programs, etc. In addition (and perhaps most vital) he will instruct, on a

community wide basis, basic fire prevention techniques and train local citizens to make the best use of limited fire fighting equipment to control and extinguish a blaze in its beginning stages.

The trainer will also teach related subjects such as rescue techniques, basic first aid, protection from exposure, and salvage of property and contents.

This will be a 6-month pilot program which will be carefully evaluated for its effectiveness with the possibility of repeating the program in the future in other villages. Trips are planned to many villages in most regions

of the State.

The success of these visits will be somewhat contingent on weather and travel conditions; however, we would like to request the cooperation and support of all villagers—for it will only be through a concerted effort on the part of the community that a reduction in the loss of property and lives will result.