

# ***Vandals Damage BLM Fuel Cache***

Vandals damaged seven of 11 drums of fuel cached near Livengood for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Firefighting Operations.

BLM Fairbanks District Manager, Richard H. LeDosquet, said the fuel, used by BLM helicopters which carry emergency firefighters to reported fires, was located in a State highway gravel pit near the junction of the Elliott Highway and the State Highway from Livengood to the Yukon River.

The fuel cache was visible from the highway, and employees of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. reported the vandal-

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ism to BLM.

Four fuel drums were intact, and an estimated 350 gallons of fuel ran from the damaged barrels to a lower area of the gravel pit.

Because the gravel pit is not close to streams, there is no danger of contaminating them with the fuel, LeDosquet said.

The pit itself has contained the fuel and prevented contamination of the surrounding area.

Vandalism and destruction of property are inexcusable, LeDosquet said, and shooting at full drums of fuel could have touched off a fire or explosion.

He said that in the future, BLM will try to locate fuel caches in areas more remote from the highway or better protected.