

## Winterization

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) has been awarded a \$195,622 winterization grant from the Federal Community Services Administration.

The money will be used to purchase material and pay labor costs to insulate and renovate low-income homes in rural Alaska as part of a nationwide energy conservation program.

Phil Smith, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, said, "We are using \$80,000 of the grant to winterize homes in 10 communities in the Copper River area, Chistochina, Copper Center, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenney Lake, Mentasta, Gakona, Chitina, Tazlina and Cantwell."

"We chose these Copper River communities," continued Smith, "because they are readily accessible by road and, therefore, the winterization project can be completed before snow fall. Also, the Copper River Native Association has just completed a housing survey outlining the specific needs of the communities."

Mary Stachelrodt, Energy Coordinator for RurAL CAP, said five communities in the Chignik area of the Alaska Peninsula will be recommended for a winterization project. Chignik is located south of Bristol Bay and is suffering from a very poor fishing season.

According to a recently completed housing survey of the Bristol Bay region, the average fuel bill in the Chignik area is about \$125 per month — winterization of homes could cut monthly fuel bills.

RurAL CAP may request a discretionary authority from the Community Services Administration to have ready money available to respond to emergency energy needs this winter, according to Smith.

The request will be made if fuel deliveries to rural communities are curtailed for any reason, and if no other assistance is available.

"We view this program as only the beginning of a partial solution to rural energy problems," said Smith. "However, we are encouraged that Congress has recognized the out-reach capabilities of the Community Action Program as the primary method of delivering emergency services to the poor and disadvantaged. We hope to prove with this program that this trust is not misplaced."



PETE STICKMAN in Copper uses up to 100 gallons of fuel a month, and says it is still cold. His home would be a challenge to winterize because of a bad roof leak.



WINDOW PANES to be replaced, plastic sheeting to be installed, and roofing will be part of the winterization program for this house in Copper.