

Bethel fuel workshop held for villagers

The State of Alaska, Division of Energy and Power Development, and Standard Oil Company joined forces recently to sponsor a Fuel Management Training Workshop that was held in Bethel on March 22-4, 1977, for several of the villages in that region.

The 17 representatives who attended the Fuel Management Workshop came from the villages of Napaskiak, Oscarville, Newtok, Chefornak, Napakiak, Eek, Quinhagak, Akiachak, Goodnews Bay, Tuluksak, Marshall, Akiak, and Bethel.

The workshop was taught by Standard Oil trainer, Larry Dempster, and Joan Ray, Energy Administrator for the State. The course covered planning for increased fuel consumption, installation of bulk storage, safety in handling fuel and bulk storage, EPA requirements, energy conservation and instructions on how to clean up fuel spills.

"One of the most interest-

ing areas of the course for the students was that of safety," said Joan Ray. "Many of the students had been smoking around fuel tanks and leaving the valves open with children in the area without really realizing the dangers involved. The Standard Oil trainer, Larry Dempster, showed a film of an actual fuel fire which cost the lives of several fireman. The students were able to see how fire spread and eventually how they put that fire out. It made a great impact on the students."

The division of Energy and Power Development, within the Department of Commerce and Economic Development has worked with rural energy problems statewide, according to the Division's director, Bill McConkey. "We were very pleased to work with the Standard Oil Company on this training workshop," McConkey said, "and hope that this workshop is the beginning of many to be held in rural areas where fuel prob-

lems continue to be experienced. Standard Oil and this office have worked together in the past to help ensure that villages have needed fuel and adequate

storage, and now we're working to insure they have the training needed to handle both."

The Division of Energy and Power Development and Stand-

ard Oil Company plan on another workshop to be held in the Kotzebue area next fall with Nome, Fairbanks and Barrow area workshops to follow.



BETHEL FUEL WORKSHOP—Standard Oil trainer Larry Dempster explains the safety mechanism on fuel tanks to village representatives during the recent Fuel Management Training Workshop in Bethel. The course was co-sponsored by the Division of Energy and Power Development and Standard Oil for over 17 students from the Bethel region.