Manakotak power plant destroyed by fire

JUNEAU—Early Friday morning a fire struck the west Alaska village of Manokotak. Although none of the village's 240 residents were injured in the fire, the community's diesel power plant was destroyed.

The village, located about 25 miles from Dillingham, appealed to Governor Sheffield for disaster relief, and Governor Sheffield has responded by declaring a disaster emergency for the village. The declaration of disaster emergency authorizes the Director of Alaska Division of Emergency Services to render assistance to a village when village resources are inadequate to cope with a disaster.

It is estimated that 70 thousand dollars will cover the cost of a replacement 300 kilowatt-hour generator, shipment to Manokotak from Fairbanks, and labor. The Division of Emergency Services expects the generator to reach Manokotak by Saturday, November 23.