



# RurAL-CAP



# ACTION REPORTS

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3908 Telephone 279-2441 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## RurAL CAP hires fire prevention specialist

### AVCP contracted to weatherize homes in 9 villages

RurAL CAP contracted with AVCP Housing Authority to "weatherize" homes in nine (9) communities in the Bethel area. They are: Atmauthluk, Napakiak, Kwethluk, Tuluksak, Tuntutuliak, Upper Kalskag, Crooked Creek, and Sleetmute. Any leftover funds will be spent in Bethel. The Yupiktak Bista Board has delegated authority to AVCP Housing to prioritize villages for this program.

In the Doyon Region, the Koyukon Development Corporation and Gwitcha, Gwitchin, Ginkhye have prioritized their villages. They are: Koyukon-Shagluk, Grayling, Nicholia, Kaltag, and Koyukok; 3-G's-Stevens Village, Beaver, Rampart, Birch Creek, and Circle. Any leftover funds are to spent in Arctic Village. At this time a contract is being negotiated with Tanana Chiefs' Conference to do the program.

The time frames are pretty tight for this project and we are asking the cooperation of the non-profit corporations and the villages themselves.

Weatherization includes first of all, stopping wind infiltration which is achieved by replacing broken windows and doors and chinking and weatherstripping.

When possible then insulation is added to walls, ceilings, and floors. In a lot of cases a removable visqueen outside window is installed. We will be installing plexi-glass windows if needed on the inside of the existing windows. They can be manufactured on site and cut to size.

RurAL CAP is preparing a film script that will be used in doing a training video tape on weatherization for the Bethel

region. It will be translated into Yupik. RurAL CAP hopes to do other video tapes for other regions. KYUK in Bethel will be primarily responsible for the video production with the cooperation of the villagers and RurAL CAP.

The eligibility for the program is based on income guidelines set for the weatherization program. These are the new income guidelines effective May 6, 1976.

Number in Family	Poverty	Near-poverty
1	\$ 3,520	\$ 4,400
2	4,640	5,800
3	5,760	7,200
4	6,880	8,600
5	8,000	10,000
6	9,120	11,400
7	10,240	12,800
8	11,360	14,200
9	12,480	15,600
10	13,600	17,000

ie: Winterization program uses "near poverty" guidelines

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.

## Federal government releases environmental study on Cook Inlet

Copies of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning a proposed sale of oil and gas leases in the lower Cook Inlet are available today for public inspection. Announcement of the publication of the draft EIS focusing on 152 blocks, involving some 865,364 acres,

was officially made in the Federal Register by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on July 13, 1976.

Publication of this document is the third in a series of steps involving participation by the public in the federal decision-making process on outer continental shelf (OCS)

matters.

The area selected after deliberations that involved, for the first time in Alaska, State officials as well as members of other federal agencies, covers about 0.9 million acres (0.35 million hectares). The location lies between Kalgin Island, on the north, and the Barren Islands, on the south.

It covers a region of about 110 miles (176 kilometers) in length and 70 miles (112 kilometers) in width.

This federally controlled area is somewhat less than one half that nominated by the petroleum industry following the call for nominations and

comments, issued September 22, 1975.

The environmental study just released today looks at an area that has, according to the U. S. Geological Survey, a fossil-fuel resource potential of from 0.09 to 2.6 million barrels of oil and from 0.6 to 3.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. About one third of the blocks proposed for leasing are believed to be gas prone, while the remainder are considered both oil and gas prone.

Of the areas offshore the South Alaska coastline, Cook Inlet is the only one where drilling for oil and natural gas has been underway since late

1959, with an initial State of Alaska sale of 25,721 acres of submerged lands. The last State sale was held on October 23, 1974.

Some of the sales proposed by the State in Cook Inlet in the 1960's were postponed when the federal government protested them on the basis of claimed ownership of the submerged lands. The jurisdictional dispute was settled by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 1975. According to the decision, because the State of Alaska proof was insufficient to establish Cook Inlet as an historic bay, the U.S. had paramount rights to the land beneath the waters of the lower, or seaward portion, of the inlet.

Single copies of the EIS, in draft form, are available from the BLM Alaska OCS Office, 800 A Street, (P.O. Box 1159, 99510) Anchorage, Alaska and from the BLM Office of Public Affairs (130), Main Interior Building, 18th and C Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20240. Copies are on a first-come first-serve basis, and will be limited one to a particular office, company facility, or individual.

A public hearing concerning the oil and gas lease-sale proposal will be held in Alaska in late August.

### Book matches hazardous on aircraft

The Federal Aviation Administration recently warned air travelers that it is dangerous and may be illegal to carry loose book matches in their luggage.

"Matches could ignite in a suitcase and start a smoldering fire that could rein a traveler's personal belongings. Moreover, there always is the danger of a small fire becoming a large one or triggering an explosion on an aircraft in flight," said Robert W. Oliver, chief of the FAA's Air Transportation Security Division, Alaska Region.

A fire can start when the cover of one match book is open and vibration or movement brings the heads of the matches into contact with the striking strip of another book, Oliver said. The usual result is a small, smoldering fire in the suitcase. But in one case an explosion resulted when the smoldering fire ignited the contents of a can of hair spray. Fortunately, the

suitcase was not aboard an airplane at the time.

FAA said that twice in the last two months it has received reports of matches starting fires in luggage. Others may have been started and gone unreported, it added.

In one of the two cases, FAA said, the fire was discovered when a baggage handler noted smoke coming from the suitcase while unloading it from the aircraft. In the other, only two books of matches actually caught fire, but there were 89 other books of matches in the same suitcase that could have been ignited. FAA is not taking action to fine the owner of the suitcase.

The FAA classifies matches as hazardous because the heads are a flammable solid. They can be legally carried on aircraft only when they are tightly packed in a closed container within the suitcase.

### Seward Harbor study funded

The Senate has passed the public works appropriations bill for fiscal year 1977 which includes \$30,000 for a study of the Seward Harbor and a \$1.5 million addition for Corps of Engineers projects put in the bill by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens in subcommittee.

The \$1.5 million would enable the continuation of a corps program which includes projects at Ketchikan and Homer. The two Alaskan projects would not necessarily be funded this year with the addition, but would at

least be brought closer to funding.

The Senate also approved appropriations for the Chena River Lakes, the Snettisham power project, a navigational study in the Cook Inlet, a metropolitan Anchorage study, a hydropower study in Interior Alaska, and a study of the Southcentral Railbelt area.

There is also money in the bill to provide for harbor operation and maintenance at Anchorage, Dillingham, Homer, Ninilchik, Nome and for the Stikine River navigational channel.