

COOPERATIVE

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tives, be sure to consult your supplier so that you get the right product for your particular fuel.

If the fuel stops flowing during a cold spell, the problem can sometimes be solved by taking the filter cartridge out of the filter unit. Slight congealing at the small filter pores can stop fuel flow. Likewise, a larger diameter pipe for the outside segment of the supply line allows fuel to flow at lower temperatures than through small tubing.

Another solution to this problem is to install the fuel filter inside a heated area of the house.

You can warm up a tank of stove oil by placing it in a "tent" of clear construction plastic to capture the sun's rays. This may temporarily solve the flow problem.

Some people keep a container of heating oil

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## PROPANE AND OTHER GAS-FIRED APPLIANCES

Propane-fueled appliances can stop working because of extreme cold. Liquid propane boils (changes into gas) at minus 44°F and liquefies at the same temperature. When the contents of a propane storage tank reach that temperature, gas cannot get to your appliances. The propane has changed to liquid.

Here are a number of steps that you can take to cold-weather protect propane systems:

Sheltering and insulating the propane tank and line is the most practical approach to prevent propane freeze-up. To beat even the coldest weather, install an explosion-proof light that can be turned on when needed for heat. A small, insulated frame shelter is adequate. Heat stripping can also be used. A commercial product similar to electric st



very cold sections of a drain system. As additional slow dripping runoff reaches that point, it freezes on top; the pipe will eventually be blocked by this "glacier" within. Water that dams up behind the glacier will also freeze, causing a very big problem.

Enclosing and insulating the area under the house where drain pipes are located is highly recommended.

Heat tapes work well on drain pipes if installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Thermostatically regulated tapes save electricity because they automatically turn on and off depending on the temperature. Putting on heat tapes, even after the pipes are frozen, can help thaw the pipes if the block is above ground.

## TYPES OF HEAT TAPES

The following contains advice on the use of electric heat tapes, which can cause fires if installed improperly. Please read the following consumer product safety commission alert if you are planning to use heat tapes on our water lines.

*To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.* /08-13/LS/10-22

[www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces) or 1-877-520-5211

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