



UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA



TENT FIRES

Number13-01

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SAFETY BULLETIN

1. On 23 October 2012, US Army Alaska experienced two separate tent fires that destroyed 10-man arctic tents and equipment. Fortunately, no one was injured. These incidents involved two separate units and occurred 12 hours apart. Regulations and SOPs for operation of the space heater, arctic (SHA) must be followed.

2. Lessons Learned:

- a. Incident #1 – Improper refueling procedures – Soldier removed fuel can prior to turning heater off.
- b. Incident #2 - Operating the arctic stove without a fire guard present in the tent.

3. Rules for SHA Operation:

- ✓ Licensed to operate IAW AR 600-55.
- ✓ Fire guard posted at all times during SHA operation.
- ✓ Turn SHA off and allow to cool down prior to refueling.
- ✓ SHA placement – SHA door toward tent door opening and at least 18 inches from tent wall.
- ✓ Do not operate SHA unless all elements of the stove are in good condition and assembly is complete.

