

Dillingham & Aleknagik Home Heating, Steam Bath, Smoke House & Wood Harvest Practices Study Completed

A new report is shedding some light on how Dillingham and Aleknagik residents keep their homes and other structures heated through the year. The survey questionnaire conducted with household occupants obtained data on basic home information, primary and secondary heating systems, steam baths, smoke houses, and wood harvest practices in relationship to current use and practices. Educational materials on home energy efficiency, air quality, wood-burning appliances, and best practices on burning, storing and seasoning firewood were shared with households that participated in the study.

The project was led by the Bristol Bay Native Association – Tribal Energy, Environmental, and Forestry Programs – in partnership with the Aleknagik Traditional Council and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Study findings will be used to assess the feasibility of wood heating system exchange programs, tailor follow-up education and outreach programs, and assist with research needed to determine sustainable biomass harvest levels for Dillingham and Aleknagik. Specific data collected through the study is an important initial step for both communities to identify appropriate wood smoke reduction measures.

For additional information about the project, contact Sue Flensburg (907-842-6241, sflensburg@bbna.com) or Melody Nibeck (907-842-6224, mnibeck@bbna.com).