



Joint Press Release

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Municipality of Anchorage
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Engine Block Heater Program Back by Popular Demand Two garages to install 1,000 more heaters by March 1st

Anchorage--January 22, 2003--The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, in conjunction with the Municipality of Anchorage timer distribution program, are re-starting the Engine Block Heater Program for another round of installations. Beginning today, two garages are taking appointments to install heaters. For \$25 each, up to 1,000 more car owners will have until March 1 to get an engine block heater package (block heater installed, a lighted cord and timer) for vehicles registered in Anchorage.

“We are happy to be able make this opportunity available again so soon after the first launch,” said Cindy Heil, ADEC’s Project Manger. “Our goal is to raise awareness about the impact cold starts have on Anchorage’s air quality, and to lessen that impact by making it easy for Anchorage residents to plug in. By the end of this season, we will have installed at least 2,000 block heaters in Anchorage through this grant program, more than a running start at reaching the goal of heightening public awareness to what each of us can do to keep our air clean.”

Jerry’s Auto Service, originally tapped to install the heaters, was overwhelmed by demand during the first round and DEC issued a request for proposals for another garage to assist. Agen’s Automotive was chosen from six garages submitting bids. Together the two garages will install 1,000 additional block heaters first come first served, before the program sunsets on March 1, the end of the cold weather season.

“It’s important that people know it may be a bit hectic again at first, but be patient,” Heil advised. “Neither of the garages will be taking recorded phone messages, which means you need to talk to a live person to confirm an appointment. We expect the call volume will be heavy at first but should level off.”

Appointments at Jerry’s made prior to the re-start are still valid and Jerry’s has 170 more openings. Agen’s will schedule approximately 830 appointments to reach the 1,000 goal. Walk-ins are accepted at both garages, but car owners should be prepared to leave their

vehicle for at least a full day. It's possible that the vehicle will be serviced earlier due to no-shows, but there are no guarantees. Those failing to show up for an existing or newly

scheduled appointment will not have another opportunity to get their heater installed this winter under this program.

To make an appointment call:

Jerry's Auto Service at 344-0238

7327 Spruce Road

Call between 8:30 AM & 7 PM

-or-

Agan's Automotive at 563-2436

737 E. International Airport Road

Call between 8 AM & 5:30 PM.

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For more information on the Engine Block Heater Program or to learn more about clean air, log on to www.careaboutair.com or contact the Department of Environmental Conservation at 269-7579.

Background: DEC is subsidizing the purchase and installation of a limited number of engine block heaters and the Municipality is providing free programmable timers using Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds. The original program along with the Municipality's free timer giveaway kicked off Clean Air Week, November 18, 2002. The second round of funding has made it possible for DEC to install 1,000 more block heaters. Under the terms of the contract, the garages have to be located in the Anchorage Bowl and in their current location for three years, and have three years experience in installing block heaters/freeze plugs. DEC reimburses garages for their actual costs.