Fuel Line and Piping Problems

- All oil supply and return lines that are buried or within concrete should be fully encased in a non-metallic, liquid-tight conduit.
- Buried electrical lines near your tank or fuel lines cause electrolysis which rapidly damage lines.
- Underground pressure return lines can leak undetected for years.
- Fuel lines located within concrete or buried underground should be continuous from burner to tank and have no splices.

What to Do in Case of a Spill

1) Try and identify the source of the spill or leak.
2) Stop or contain the spill to the best of your abilities. (This may mean calling your fuel provider and having the tank emptied.)
3) Report the spill to your local ADEC office.

For more information on heating oil systems visit:
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/hho.htm

For questions or to report a spill during business hours call:
Anchorage: (907)-269-3063
Fairbanks: (907)-451-2121
Juneau: (907)-465-5340
To report an oil spill after hours call:
1-800-478-9300
Underground Inspection Checklist

☐ How old is your tank? If you don’t know the age of your tank, or if it is more than 15 years old, it may be time to replace it.

☐ Is there an odor of diesel around your tank or in your house? It could be from a leaking fuel tank.

☐ Check your tank for water! Water can corrode your tank from the inside or indicate that your tank is leaking.

☐ Check the fill cap. If damaged or missing, replace immediately!

☐ Check for sheen or diesel in nearby streams, drainage ditches or wetlands. Sheen can be a sign of a leaking tank.

☐ Check for unexplained distressed or dead vegetation around your fuel tank.

☐ Check to make sure the vent line is clear of foreign matter like spider webs.

☐ If possible, have the system pressure tested. Return lines can leak for years without any indication of a problem.

☐ Check your fuel usage. Keep track of your oil consumption. A dramatic increase in fuel consumption may indicate a leak!

☐ Is your furnace or boiler acting up? Have the fuel lines and tank checked.

☐ Typical Underground Oil Tank Installation

* Oil Safety Valve required when any portion of tank is above the burner
** Check Valve required on return line if piped to bottom of tank