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Technical Bulletins: Emergency Fuel Supplies Available to Tennessee Cities

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technical bulletin

Municipal Technical Advisory Service
Institute for Public Service, The University of Tennessee
In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

July 10, 1979

EMERGENCY FUEL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO TENNESSEE CITIES

Cities experiencing short-term problems in obtaining sufficient gasoline or diesel fuel to maintain essential services may apply for temporary assignment of a portion of the state's emergency "set aside" allocation. Note that this applies to hardship situations only and is not intended to meet a continuing need.

To be eligible to apply for the special allocation, a city first must have requested and been refused additional fuel, at any price, from not only its regular supplier but also from a second supplier.

Applications for additional fuel, to get a city through a period of insufficient supply caused by some unusual circumstance (such as a rash of fires resulting in more than normal use of fire equipment), may be made by city officials to the Tennessee Energy Authority, Capitol Hill Building, Nashville 37219, in one of three ways, according to Steve Kopp, TEA chief of resource management:

1. In writing, using forms available from TEA. Kopp stressed that TEA will not process any application received more than five (5) working days prior to the first day of the month for which the request is being made.
2. By phone, if a city is running low on fuel close to the end of a month and there isn't time to apply in writing. If sufficient information is provided during the call (phone 615/741-6667), TEA will process the application and release the fuel. However, the city also must submit a written application within five (5) days of the oral request.
3. In person, when time is extremely short. City officials may complete the application form at the TEA office for immediate processing.

In each case, if the application is approved TEA will authorize the city's supplier (or suppliers) to sell to the city a specified amount of additional fuel from the portion set aside each month for emergency use.

Under provisions of the Federal Emergency Petroleum Act, each state controls 5% of the gasoline, 4% of the middle distillates (diesel fuel and heating oil) and 3% of the propane coming into the state monthly. Only the state can authorize the sale of any portion of this "set aside" fuel. The Tennessee program has been in place since the 1974 oil embargo.

NOTE: A NEW APPLICATION IS REQUIRED IF, AT ANY TIME, A CITY AGAIN HAS NEED OF AN EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT OF FUEL.

Municipal Technical Advisory Service
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37916

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