



NEWS RELEASE

DATE: OCTOBER 2010

DON'T LET THE WINTER CATCH YOU OUT

As the weather begins to turn and the temperatures start to drop, The Federation of Petroleum Suppliers (FPS) is urging homeowners and businesses that use oil for heating to get themselves prepared for the winter and not be caught out by the bad weather that was experienced by many last winter.

The FPS represents the majority of oil distribution companies in Great Britain, who are, in the main, small family businesses. These companies deliver almost all the home heating oil used in Great Britain and many provide a vital service for local communities. Susan Hancock, FPS Chief Executive, comments: "Now is the time when householders and businesses should be starting to think about what their needs are going to be for the winter and should be getting prepared. Filling up your tank now would also be a good idea, especially if the price of oil is lower at the moment, when demand is not as high. The increased demand during the winter, and especially in the run-up to Christmas, usually means delivery delays so we are urging people to make sure they don't get caught out by leaving it too late.

Our members understand that times are hard and people may want to wait before ordering fuel but a lot of oil distributors run payment schemes to encourage customers to have bigger, less frequent deliveries but then spread the payments out over the whole year, helping both financially and ensuring homeowners don't run out of fuel when winter hits."



She continues: “When we had the bad weather last winter, many householders had to wait for oil supplies as tankers struggled to deliver in the snow. By definition, of course, homes and businesses that rely on oil deliveries tend to be the ones off the beaten track, and many rural areas were cut off by snow that then melted and turned into sheet ice, making deliveries even more treacherous.

Our members remind customers that they should order early, but people have got into a pattern of ordering the minimum quantity. Customers last year had a trend of ordering 500 litres and then ran out in the middle of the worst snow, when tanker drivers just couldn’t get to them. We are trying to educate people to think ahead and be prepared.

In winter, the UK can also experience shortages of heating oil at terminals. Demand is obviously governed by the weather and a prolonged cold snap, such as was experienced last winter, means that the terminals are unable to provide product quickly enough and consumers can run out whilst waiting for deliveries as distributors have to go further afield to get supplies.”

ENDS

Media enquiries to Stephanie Freeman at FM Marketing on: Office: 01270 883782

Mobile:07961 149399 Email: stephanie@fmmarketingpr.com

EDITOR’S NOTE

The Federation of Petroleum Suppliers (FPS) represents the majority of oil distribution companies in Great Britain, who are, in the main, small family businesses responsible for deliveries of almost all the home heating oil used in Great Britain, in addition to marine, agricultural, commercial, industrial and forecourt deliveries. There are currently over 180 members of the FPS across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.