



NEWS RELEASE

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OIL DISTRIBUTORS CALL TO CUSTOMERS TO GET PREPARED FOR JANUARY WINTER WEATHER

Oil distribution industry trade association, FPS (Federation of Petroleum Suppliers) is urging homeowners and businesses that use oil for heating to get themselves prepared as the first of the winter snow seems set for this week as weather forecasters say the country is set to have a cold spell lasting the whole month.

Oil Distributors across the country are urging their customers to check their oil levels and oil tanks and not to be caught out by the bad weather that was experienced by many last year.

Chief Executive of the FPS, Mark Askew comments: "Now is the time when householders and businesses should be starting to think about what their needs are going to be and not to leave it to the last minute when the bad weather has taken hold and tanker drivers struggle to get through on roads covered in snow or ice. Last year many left filling up to the last minute and were caught out by the bad weather in November and December.

Our members understand that times are hard and people may want to wait before ordering fuel but many 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 the bad weather hits."

Mark Askew adds: "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 the Met Office is forecasting for January, 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.”

We would also advise customers to use only FPS members as the FPS code of conduct offers them additional protection beyond the legal minimum. The code of conduct can be viewed on www.fpsonline.co.uk

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EDITORS NOTE

About FPS

FPS (Federation of Petroleum Suppliers) 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.