ELECTRICAL HEATING TAPE
FOR
SLIP-ON PUMPER UNITS
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Auxiliary (portable type) electrical generators can be used where no commercial source is available.

Additional copies of Technical Notes are available from DSC, Federal Center Building 50, Denver, Colo., 80225
An employee suggestion submitted by Lloyd W. Morrison, Montana State Office, recommends a procedure for protecting some of the more exposed and vital parts of pump units found on slip-on pumper units that often necessitated draining the units to prevent freezing. This suggestion has been adopted for all Bureau offices on an optional basis.

Standby fire pumper slip-on units are often used in early season fires and in cases in late season when the probability of freezing is present. Low temperatures can and often do occur during daytime hours when tanker units are exposed, especially in the higher elevations of the northern areas.

Many times it is inconvenient to drain pumper units each night and run anti-freeze through the system. Not only is it inconvenient but it is somewhat expensive and constitutes a delay in getting the unit operational. The use of properly installed electrical heating tape can overcome the necessity of drainage. Naturally the use of this device is not intended to be used when the fire season is finally over and the units are to be stored for the winter.

In some cases electrical commercial outlets are not available even at some district warehouse yards. In cases where an electrical source is unavailable the electric heating tapes can be plugged into a portable electric supply. Districts not having such electrical generators can obtain them through the BIFC warehouse on a rental basis.

The cost of draining and refilling tankers exceeds the expense of purchasing and wrapping equipment with the electrical heating tape.

Example of one type of electric heat tape. There are many lengths, types and styles available. All tapes should be UL approved.

Note:
Author of suggestion is not recommending any special type of tape by trade name. A variety of types are on the market and care should be exercised in securing heat tapes to determine that they will do the job intended. In most cases all manufacturers of heating tapes warn against using them on plastic pipe.
Care must be taken in wrapping to be sure tape does not overlap. Read directions on the package carefully and follow installation directions.

View showing length of one style tape. This particular style was 18 feet long.
Close-up view of heating tape wrapped on exposed vital areas. Each portable unit is undoubtedly different in design.

Each bumper will have to be looked over to determine those points in the system most susceptible to freezing.
Care must be taken in wrapping to be sure tape does not overlap. Read directions on the package carefully and follow installation directions.

View showing length of one style tape. This particular style was 18 feet long.