

Firm Taps Catastrophe Supply

The Seattle Steam Corp., which provides heat for 95 per cent of the buildings in downtown Seattle, has begun drawing on a "catastrophe" supply of fuel oil in storage at Winslow. C. W. Easton, company president, said today.

Picketing by striking oil workers is curtailing the normal flow of petroleum products.

This is the third time in 12 years the firm has had to tap its emergency supply, Easton added.

ALTHOUGH THE Winslow supply will satisfy the needs of Seattle Steam for two weeks, Easton said he already has begun investigating the possibility of buying fuel oil in British Columbia.

Because it uses so much fuel oil, Seattle Steam has its own barging service and does not rely on tank trucks or pipeline supplies, Easton added.

Seattle Steam also uses some gas to fire its boilers.

EASTON SAID Seattle Steam's main concern is to be able to continue to heat the five hospitals it has as customers. They are Seattle General, Harborview, Swedish, Cabrini and Maynard Hospitals.

Easton said he has written officials of the striking union to suggest that they should lift the embargo against oil for Seattle Steam "purely for the sake of the hospitals."