

Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells



Are You at Risk?

Altering or tampering with oil and gas wells may cause personal injury, environmental damage and/or financial liability. Locating and plugging these wells in the future becomes much more difficult.

Personal injury and/or death can result from encountering

- unknown pressures,
- flammable liquids,
- explosive gases, and
- toxic gases.

Environmental damage can result from oil, gas, and brine contamination of

- surface and subsurface soil,
- springs, streams, rivers and lakes; and
- water wells.

Financial liability, costing hundreds to thousands of dollars, can include

- property damage,
- medical costs,
- environmental damage and cleanup costs,
- loss of wildlife, livestock and pets,
- plugging costs, and
- legal fees and fines.

Ohio Orphan Well Program

Landowners can refer oil and gas wells to the ODNR Orphan Well Program for proper plugging. These wells are prioritized according to severity and/or threat of hazard to public health and safety.

More information about the Orphan Well Program is available on the Division of Mineral Resources Management website at www.ohiodnr.com/mineral/oil.

Contact Us

Contact the Division of Mineral Resources Management when abandoned oil and gas wells are found. Local inspectors need to document each well, record the location and inspect it for leaking oil and gas. The Division regulates all oil and gas drilling and production activities in Ohio including permitting, well drilling, production and well plugging.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mineral Resources Management
www.ohiodnr.com/mineral

North Region:
New Philadelphia 330.339.2207
Salem 330.222.1527
Uniontown 330.896.0616

South Region:
Cambridge 740.439.9079
Jackson 740.286.6411

West Region:
Columbus 614.265.6761
Lebanon 513.933.6718
Mt. Vernon 740.392.4499
Napoleon 419.599.0058

DMRM MISSION: To provide for the responsible development of Ohio's energy and mineral resources in a safe, environmentally sound manner



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