

TEN GOOD REASONS TO
SEAL ABANDONED WELLS

**GROUNDWATER
PROTECTION**

Wells are a direct route to the aquifer

SAFETY

People and pets can easily fall into them

PROTECTS OTHER WATER SUPPLIES

Especially nearby wells

**USE OF PESTICIDES AND
HERBICIDES**

Not within 50 feet

PEACE OF MIND

No safety or groundwater hazard

POTENTIAL LIABILITY

If an accident of contamination should occur

AESTHETIC VALUE

Abandoned wells are not a pretty sight

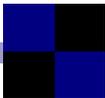
VALUE

Some old pumps may be valuable

**RESPONSIBLE TRANSFER OF
LAND**

Before selling, wells should be sealed

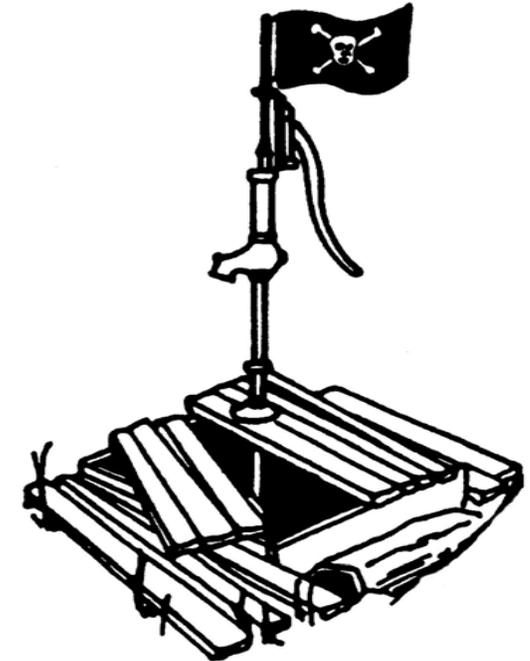
IT'S THE LAW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Certified Well Drillers / Sealers

- D&S Drilling
Millstadt, IL.
(618) 476 - 1375
- Haudrich Drilling Co.
Waterloo, IL.
(618) 458-6667
- Kohnen Concrete Products
Germantown, IL.
(618) 277-2120
- Roberts Environmental
Millstadt, IL.
(618) 476-7334
- Harris Drilling
Freeburg, IL.
(618) 539-3180
- Hamel Well Drilling Company, INC.
Hamel, IL.
(618) 633-2247
- St. Charles Drilling Co.
St. Charles, Mo.
(314) 441-1400

**Abandoned Wells
in St. Clair
County:
Are You at Risk?**



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

"SCCHD"

19 PUBLIC SQUARE,
SUITE 150
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

62220

(618) 233-7769

Abandoned Wells

An estimated 400,000 private water wells in Illinois provide drinking water to approximately 1.3 million people. Each year, many of these wells are abandoned when they are replaced with new wells or when homes are connected to community water systems. A large number of these abandoned wells are large diameter dug wells constructed of brick or stone casings, and ranging in depth from 20 to 50 feet. An abandoned well can pose a health and safety hazard if it is improperly sealed or not sealed at all.

Abandoned Wells as Safety Hazard

When abandoned wells are left open, children, animals or even adults can fall into them, causing injury or death. To prevent such accidents all abandoned wells must be properly sealed.

Abandoned Wells As Sources Of Pollution

If improperly sealed, an abandoned well can serve as a route for contaminating groundwater. Contaminated surface water, agricultural runoff and effluent from private sewage disposal systems can enter the groundwater through such wells and cause pollution of other wells in the area used for drinking water.

Legal Requirements

The Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires the owner of a water well, boring or monitoring well to properly seal the well within thirty days after it is abandoned and no longer used to supply water. If a well or boring is in such a state of disrepair that it has the potential for transmitting contaminants into the groundwater or otherwise threatens the public health or safety, it must be sealed. Where an abandoned well is found to contaminate another potable water well, the owner of the abandoned well is responsible for providing a safe and sufficient supply of water to the owner of the well that has been contaminated.

Sealing Abandoned Wells

The basic concept in sealing an abandoned well is restoring the geological conditions that existed before the well was drilled. Therefore, the particular method for sealing a well depends on the type of water well and the local geographic features.

A licensed water well driller must seal an abandoned well. A homeowner may seal his own well by submitting an application to the SCCHD describing procedures and materials, all of which must comply with the well code. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) must be notified at least 48 hours prior to the start of the work to seal such wells and, after the sealing is finished, a completed sealing form must be submitted to the SCCHD. A representative of the SCCHD will be on site for the well sealing. Most dug or bored wells can be sealed by filling them with clean clay fill. Drilled wells are somewhat more complex to seal and require neat cement or bentonite (sealing material). The depth, geology and construction of the particular abandoned well to be sealed determines the appropriate levels at which these materials must be placed. For all types of wells, the well casing must be removed at least two feet below the final grade, all pipes must be removed and the well must be disinfected prior to sealing.

For More Information

More detailed information can be found in the Illinois Water Well Construction Code, which can be obtained from the:

St. Clair County Health Department,

“SCCHD”

19 Public Square, Suite 150
Belleville, Illinois 62220
(618) 233-7769

Man Pulls Four-Year-Old from Well

By : Rich West

GALESBURG - Chevron Lane was in the right place at the right time Wednesday afternoon.

Thanks to his concern, four- year Brittany Darst escaped serious injury when she fell down an abandoned water well behind 847 Avenue B.

Lane, 29, 430 N. Chambers Street, was on a call Wednesday for Greg Gufaston Tire and Auto Service, 674 E. Main Street. He was changing tires on a car owned by an elderly woman who resides at 847 Ave. B.

“I was changing the tires and heard yelling and screaming and one of the neighbor kids came up and told me that a girl had fallen in a well,” Lane said.

Lane followed the child to the back of the house where the well, at least 156 feet deep was located.

“Everyone was standing around the well saying hold on, help is coming, but I knew I had to do something,” Lane said.

Lane said the little girl, who lives up the street at 890 Ave. B, was crying, yelling, and clinging to a pipe running down through the well from a pump located above.

“It looked like she had gone completely under at least once. Her hair was wet, and she had mud and grass all over her hair and face,” Lane said.

“I didn’t know if she would be able to hold on much longer,” he said.

Lane started down the well feet first, keeping himself wedged against the walls as he descended.

“She put out one of her arms and I was able to pull her up to me,” Lane said.

Brittany found her way to the arms of her mother, Jody Darst, 25, after Lane pulled her out. She was transported to Cottage Hospital where she was treated for some bruises and abrasions and released.

* Information provided by IDPH