

Abandoned wells are a SAFETY HAZARD to humans and animals.

THREATS to human health:

- Contaminants entering a well.
- Concentrated chemicals entering a well.
- Space between the borehole and well casing open at the land surface.
- An unprotected opening in the well casing that is above ground level.
- Top of well casing is below known flood level and not sealed.

How do I identify an abandoned well?

You may find plastic, steel, brick or concrete casing (pipe), extending above ground, or a hole in the ground with no apparent bottom. Some abandoned wells have cement or brick casing extending above ground or a windmill with missing blades.

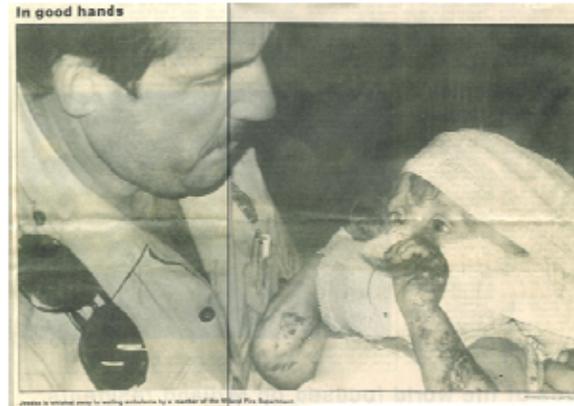
Why do I need to plug an abandoned or deteriorated well on my property?

They are a HAZARD to human and animal life! Contamination can affect water wells in the area including those used for drinking water.

I have identified an abandoned well and/or deteriorated well on my property. Can I plug it myself?

Yes. The landowner is required to plug the well and submit a State of Texas Plugging Report.

Human health and safety is top priority!



(The Odessa American Newspaper, October 17, 1987)
Jessica McClure is rescued from an abandoned water well in Midland, Texas after almost 58 hours.

For the following information go to:

www.license.state.tx.us/well.htm

- See images of abandoned wells
- Download the checklist to determine if you have an abandoned well
- Report an abandoned well online
- Download a plugging report
- Enter your plugging report online
- Find licensed drillers and pump installers in your area
- Sign up to receive email notifications about the Water Well Driller program

There are over 150,000 abandoned wells in Texas.

I just bought some land and found an old well. Who is responsible for plugging or bringing the well into compliance?

The landowner of record.

How soon after I plug my well do I need to submit a plugging report?

30 days from the date the well was plugged.

Can I hire someone to plug a well located on my property?

Yes.

However, the individual must be a TDLR licensed driller or pump installer.

Does the TDLR regulate public water supply wells?

No.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Plan Review Section regulates well construction specifications. Their phone number is (512) 239-6960.

The Department of Licensing and Regulation regulates the licensed water well driller who drills Public Water Supply wells and the licensed water well pump installer who installs the pump.

Some Things to Remember

When Plugging a Well:

- **HIRE** a TDLR licensed well driller.
- **SLOPE** well area so surface runoff drains away.
- **REMOVE** all casing or at least any extending above ground.

Preventing Problems:

- **NEVER** dispose of waste in dry or abandoned wells.
- **NEVER** dispose of hazardous materials in a septic system.
- **DO NOT** mix or use pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, & other pollutants near the well.
- **INSTALL** a locking well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use or entry into the well.
- **TAKE CARE** in working or mowing around your well.
- **PUMP** and **INSPECT** septic systems as often as recommended by your local Health department.
- **DO NOT** just place a cover over a well.



STAY CONNECTED!

For your convenience,
online services are available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
www.license.state.tx.us/well.htm



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The DANGERS of an ABANDONED WELL

Safety first!

**Take responsibility
for PROTECTING
your water.**

REPORT ABANDONED WELLS

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