

**WARREN'S A-20 BLUEGRASS** —  
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**GAS IN WELL WATER**

Many water wells in Illinois give off flammable gas, such as methane, often called marsh gas, and hydrogen sulfide gas. While the hydrogen sulfide gas is readily detected by its rotten egg odor, methane gas is odorless, tasteless and colorless and where the concentration is high or the ventilation is poor enough of this gas may accumulate and mix with the air to form an explosion. The Bureau of Mines states that a mixture of about 10% methane in a gas air mixture will support combustion.

An oak log one foot in diameter and five feet long, buried in the ground, can generate enough methane gas when it decomposes to form an explosive mixture in 15,000 to 45,000 cubic feet of air, this is usually greater than the volume of the average pump house, so all pump houses containing a well should be adequately ventilated; before starting up any of the electrical equipment in the early spring, after the pump house has been closed all winter, the superintendent would be well advised to "air it out" thoroughly for an electrical spark can, and has, caused an explosion.

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