

HAZARD ALERT BULLETIN

Explosion Potential at Abandoned Mine Shafts

The atmosphere in the enclosed space of an abandoned mine shaft may be asphyxiating, toxic, flammable, or explosive. Therefore, work that will breach the seal on an abandoned mine shaft must be done with great care. A water pump installed on a capped shaft is pictured.



BEST PRACTICES

- **Communicate hazards of flammable/explosive atmospheres and oxygen-deficient atmospheres.**
- **Remove all ignition sources from the area, if possible.**
- **Provide fire protection and conduct frequent examinations.**
- **Test continuously with a suitable gas detector before and during work on the seal.**
- **Assure that emergency communications are always available.**