



UNDERWRITING ALERT

RAM Mutual Insurance Company

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Safety Alert - Hog Barn Explosions

Recent explosions in hog facilities in Minnesota and Iowa have prompted us to issue an urgent reminder to hog growers of the dangers of **methane gas**.



***When agitating or pumping the pits ~
ALWAYS:***

- Shut off all ignition sources, including heaters, pilot lights, feed motors, etc. that could create a spark.
- Always keep pit fans and ventilation fans running so the methane can not build up to explosive limits
- Drop (open) the side curtains for air intake.

Methane Gas is . . .

**Colorless ~ Odorless
Lighter Than Air**



Foaming in the Pit: Recently, many operators have experienced foam that grows rapidly in the pits. Research is showing that this is connected to the mixture of feeds being used and it is producing hydrogen sulfide gas that is mixing with the methane. It is not clear at this time if this enhances the danger of the gases. More research is being done on this situation.