

Three Killed By Gas Damp In Wyoming Mine

WORLAND, Wyo. (AP) — Three men were killed late Sunday by the deadly black damp of an abandoned coal mine about one and a quarter miles north of Manderson, Wyo., as the result of an exploration adventure.

Tony Martinez of Worland and Joe Martinez of Pueblo, Colo., (no relation) temporarily residing in Worland, decided to explore the mine while on a picnic.

Tony Martinez' wife, who remained at the mouth of the mine, became alarmed when the men did not reappear after a few minutes. Peering into the hole, she saw the men lying about 85 feet from the entrance.

Mrs. Martinez rushed for help, and Jaye Leo Vialpando came to her aid. Vialpando went into the mine after the two men, and was immediately overcome himself.

Other members of the party summoned the Big Horn County sheriff's office and firemen from Basin, Greybull and Worland. The firemen found the bodies after entering the mine with gas masks.

The bodies were taken to Basin where they will be held pending an investigation of the accident. Authorities said they were trying to locate relatives of Joe Martinez at Pueblo.

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