3 Teens Crushed as Old Mine Collapses

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — Three youths camping in a cave the owner said had been posted as dangerous were crushed to death when the ceiling collapsed, authorities say. Two others survived.

The campers' bonfire may have loosened the moist limestone rock in the cave, one of a number created at least 50 years ago when the hills near Platte River south of Omaha were mined for rock, Cass County Sheriff's Sgt. Joe Baldassano said Sunday.

The victims were identified as Mark Wiles, 18, and his brother Michael, 12, and David Funkhouser, 17, of Louisville. David Terry, 19, of Cedar Creek, was in satisfactory condition Sunday at Midlands Community Hospital.

Doug Miller, 19, of Cedar Creek, who was not injured, said he and Terry stumbled down a wooded hillside and followed railroad tracks for almost a mile before reaching a house to summon help.

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Clipped By: usmra_rob Nov 8, 2024