

Las Cruces teen killed in mine shaft accident

LAS CRUCES (AP) — A Las Cruces teen-ager was killed when he fell 250 feet down an abandoned mine shaft on the west face of the Organ Mountains, state police said.

Casey Wade Worrell, 17, was exploring the mine east of Las Cruces with five friends when he tumbled down the shaft Monday in the Stevenson Bennett mine, officers said.

His father, Wade, is director of the Deming Soil Conservation Service office.

"They were in the mine itself and their light went out," said Mark Evans, a state police communications specialist. "Apparently, this kid took a bad step in the dark and fell down the shaft."

State police learned of the accident at 6 p.m. Monday, and Worrell's body was recovered at about 3:10 a.m. today, Evans said.