

Five friends killed in abandoned mine

PHILADELPHIA — A Jeep filled with six friends joy-riding across an abandoned strip mine plunged through the ice into a water-filled pit, killing all but one. The sole survivor used his head as a battering ram to break the icy surface.

Joseph Ruse, 24, stood shivering on the edge of the 15-foot-deep pit for about 15 minutes New Year's night, hoping someone else would make it out alive. No one did.

By the time he led police along five miles of dirt roads more than four hours later, the water had frozen over the pit, hiding the three bodies still in the Jeep and the two others resting just under the ice.

1998 Jan Five men killed in abandoned PA
mine

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