Hiker falls into Lebanon mine shaft

Rescuers on Sunday rappelled into an abandoned mine shaft on a Lebanon County State Game Lands to save a 20-year-old hiker, Jonestown state police said.

Jason Powley, Ashwood Way, Harrisburg,, who had been hiking with several friends, lost his footing, slid down a rock face, and fell about 60 feet into the coal mine shaft, Trooper Scott Brown said.

A member of the hiking party who had a cellular phone reported the accident to Lebanon County emergency dispatchers at about 1:30 p.m. State police and rescuers immediately headed for the Game Lands, located near Gold Mine Road at the Lebanon-Schuylkill County boundary.

Powley broke his arm and suffered facial cuts in the fall. A state trooper and other rescue personnel rappelled into the mine shaft, treated the hiker, and prepared him to be pulled out, Brown said.

The rescue operation lasted about two hours, A helicopter flew Powley to the Penn State Geisinger, Hershey Medical Center for treatment.

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