

Texas man suffocates in mine

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE CITY — A Texas man suffocated in a mine tunnel near Lake City this week, authorities said.

Rescuers last week discovered the body of Larry Dezinny, 49, a tourist from Tyler, Texas, 600 feet inside the entrance of the Chicago Mine near Henson Creek in southwestern Colorado.

A companion and a child exploring the mine with Dezinny left the tunnel when they felt faint. Dezinny died from lack of oxygen, authorities said.

The death prompted the state Division of Minerals and Geology to renew its warnings about Colorado's 18,000 abandoned mines.

Hazards include loose soil, unstable roofs and ladders, deadly gases, explosives and even poisonous snakes. Abandoned mines have claimed 18 lives and injured 23 people since 1955, division officials said Friday.

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