

Man exploring mine rescued from shaft

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IDAHO SPRINGS — A 26-year-old Lakewood man was rescued after become stranded about 180 feet down an abandoned mine shaft on Saturday.

Christopher Foltz was descending the shaft when his climbing rope, tied to a rotting mining timber, broke, said Clear Creek County Undersheriff Bill Bridenburg said.

It was unclear how far he fell but he was not injured. He was found 180 feet into the shaft.

Foltz, who apparently entered the mine through a two-foot hole in the grate covering the entrance, will be charged with third-degree criminal trespass, Bridenburg said.

Foltz was rescued at about 10 p.m. by Marcus Rice, the Empire town marshal and a member of the Alpine Rescue Team, who was lowered into

the mine.

The team does not normally perform mine rescues, but Rice volunteered.

Bridenburg said Foltz became stuck in the shaft at about 2:30 p.m. and his friends and his brother tried to rescue him on their own. Sheriff's deputies were not notified until some passers-by went to a hardware looking for longer pieces of rope to help the rescue, Bridenburg said.

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