

Teen rescued after falling into Northern California mine shaft

By Richard Ramos

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<https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/teen-rescued-after-falling-into-northern-california-mine-shaft/>

AUBURN — A 15-year-old boy was rescued from a Northern California mine shaft, officials said Monday.

It happened in the Placer County city of Auburn near China Bar in the Auburn State Recreation Area, the California State Parks department said.

The teenager was exploring a Gold Rush-era mine shaft that was about six feet deep and 30 feet back when he fell and became stuck. After about 15 minutes, a friend who was with the teen called for help.

It took approximately 40 minutes to safely rescue the teen, who was taken to an area hospital for evaluation, officials said. The teen did not suffer any major injuries.

State parks officials said Cal Fire personnel conducted the rescue, while first responders from the city of Auburn all assisted with the call.

California State Parks said it "advises the public to not explore any of these historic mine shafts as they are unstable and are known to have steep drop-offs."

Teen Rescued from 50-Foot Mine Shaft in Placer County

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/10169/Placer-County-Mine-Rescue>

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On Feb. 10, at approximately 3:27 p.m., resources from the Placer County Fire Department and the Auburn City Fire Department responded to a medical rescue involving a 16-year-old male who had fallen into a vertical mine shaft approximately 50 feet deep.

The PCFD technical rescue team arrived at the scene and determined that the victim and his friends entered a horizontal mine shaft about 180 feet into the side of the mountain to explore. Using household ropes, the youths rappelled approximately 40-50 down a vertical shaft. During their ascent, the rope broke and the victim fell approximately 30 feet back to the bottom of the shaft. The victim attempted to free climb back up but ultimately ran out of strength and positioned himself on a precarious ledge awaiting rescuers.

The PCFD technical rescue team set up a lightweight, complex rope system and established air monitoring. The primary rescuer rappelled to the victim's location, secured him in a harness and packaged him onto the primary rope system. Rescuers were able to extract the victim safely where he was then transported to a local trauma center for medical evaluation and treatment.

The Placer County Fire Department Rescue Team is one of the busiest teams in the north state and was able to facilitate this technical rescue in a very confined and austere environment 180 feet inside of the mountain. This incident highlights the unique natural hazards ever-present within Placer County's beautiful and rugged landscape. Our commitment to public safety in these diverse scenarios using highly trained special operations teams is paramount in our service to the public.