

Boy Rescued From Gold Mine Shaft

ADELANTO (UPI) — A 19-year-old rockhound was rescued Sunday three and one half hours after he fell 160 feet down the shaft of an abandoned gold mine three miles north of this San Bernardino County community.

Alan Chamberlain of Adelanto, who was lifted out of the mine on a stretcher, was taken to the March Air Force Base hospital with a broken right thigh and hand and numerous cuts and bruises.

Sheriff's deputies said Chamberlain, his fiancée, Patricia Gore, and a friend, Mike Hester, had been investigating a 15-foot deep side shaft at the Red Rooster gold mine in the foothills of Shadow Mountain.

After dragging a box full of equipment from the hole, Chamberlain stepped backward into the main shaft and fell to the bottom, striking timbers several times on the way down.

A group of motorcyclists in the area took Hester to a telephone where he called for help and a sheriff's department search and rescue team along with two tow trucks arrived several minutes later.

Deputies said Dave Stever, a member of the rescue unit, was lowered down the shaft about 50 feet above Chamberlain but the deputy was painfully, but not seriously hurt when he struck a timber and had to be brought out.

A civilian volunteer was lowered next and he managed to reach the youth and give him first aid before he was placed on a stretcher and pulled out by winch and cable nearly three hours later.

Authorities said the gold mine had not been worked in nearly a decade and no barricades or warning signs were posted near the mine as required by law.

1972 Alan Chamberlain rescued after fall into abandoned gold mine

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