

Youth rescued after fall down unused mine shaft

FALLON, Nev. (UPI) — A California teen-ager was in Washoe Medical Center Sunday after being rescued from an abandoned mine shaft.

Doug Gard, 18, of Lafayette, suffered serious back, neck and shoulder injuries when he fell almost 50 feet down a mine shaft that he and three friends were exploring Saturday.

Gard and his three companions — Scott Merritt, 19, Nick Rarig, 20, and Whit Everett, 18 — were “just traveling around” enjoying the school vacation. They were exploring the mine with Gard in the lead when he fell. Their only light, a flashlight, was car-

ried by the third man back in the group.

When the rocks and dirt stopped falling, Merritt said the three could hear Gard moaning. They climbed down an old wooden ladder to find Gard some 50 feet below. He was conscious and said he was numb from the neck down.

After rescuers arrived, it took almost an hour to lift Gard out of the shaft to a waiting helicopter from the Fallon Naval Air Station.

The helicopter took him to Washoe Medical Center in Reno where he underwent emergency treatment.

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