

3 Teens Die Exploring Abandoned Mine

GRAND JUNCTION (AP) — A group of teen-agers exploring an abandoned coal mine apparently were overcome by poison gas, and three were killed, authorities said Monday.

A fourth youth rescued from the mine was hospitalized in serious condition.

The fifth member of the group walked and ran more than five miles through rugged desert to get help for his friends after they collapsed late Sunday, said Mesa County Sheriff's Lt. Wayne Harms.

Miles Slape, 17, the boy who went

for help, reported he had trouble breathing in the mine, and investigators believed the teen-agers were poisoned by some kind of gas, Harms said. Autopsies were ordered.

"Those old mines have all kinds of gas; the older the mine the more gas they have," Harms said. "They're very, very dangerous things."

Killed were two girls — Christian Rossman, 15, and Catherine Schrettner, 16 — and a boy, Greg Folchert, 17. Frank Warner, 16, was listed in stable but serious condition Monday at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

1989 Teenager Frank Warner rescued from abandoned mine 3 die

