

Man reported missing more than a week ago found alive in closed Mingo County mine

WCHS Channel 8

By Jeff Morris

Friday, April 17, 2020

MINGO COUNTY, W.Va. (WCHS/WVAH) — State officials said a man reported missing more than a week ago was found alive late Thursday in a long-closed Mingo County mine, where he had apparently become lost after trespassing.

Timothy Kennedy, 26, was reported missing April 9 by a family member, according to a news release from the state Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. The resulting investigation led to the Gilbert-area mine, which last produced coal in November 2011.

The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, West Virginia State Police, the Southern Pocahontas Mine Rescue Team and U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration officials took part in the successful search and rescue operation at the former Isaban Deep Mine #3.

Rescuers found evidence of copper removal during their search, the news release said.

After coming upon a flashlight about 400 feet into the mine, the rescuers located the man more than a half-mile from the mine entrance.

The man was brought to the surface and examined by Elite Care Ambulance personnel before being taken to a hospital by life-flight for an evaluation. Further details regarding his condition were not immediately available Friday.

Besides having to wade through some water, the rescuers did not encounter extreme adverse conditions and did not need to turn on their breathing devices.

The news release said the state Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training cited the mine owner, Frasier Creek Mining, LLC, on March 9 for failure to abate an order to barricade openings to the mine.

UPDATE: Man found in Mingo County mine identified

by Douglas Fritz

Friday, April 17, 2020

Charleston, WV (WVNS) — 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2020 UPDATE: A man who was missing for a week was found alive inside a long-closed Mingo County mine. That is the latest according to the West Virginia Officer of Miners' Health, Safety and Training (MHST).

Timothy Kennedy, 26, was reported missing on April 9, 2020 by a family member. That led to a search in the Isaban Deep Mine #3 in the Gilbert area. The mine last produced coal in November 2011.

Officials said Kennedy was trespassing in the mine and became lost. During the search, rescuers found evidence copper was being taken. They found a flashlight about 400 feet into the mine and located Kennedy more than a half-mile from the entrance.

Kennedy was flown to a hospital for evaluation after being initially treated outside the mine entrance. Details on his condition were not released.

Rescuers said they had to wade through some water, but did not encounter extreme adverse conditions. They did not need to turn on their breathing devices. The miner owner, Frasier Creek Mining, LLC, was previously cited by MHST on March 9 for failing to abate an order to barricade openings to the mine.

The search was conducted by the MHST, West Virginia State Police, the Southern Pocahontas Mine Rescue Team and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).