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trussville rock quarry

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Birmingham man plunges 80 feet into quarry, lives

By **Kent Faulk**
News staff writer

David Adams looked down into the abandoned water-filled rock quarry near Trussville at his friends 80 feet below.

But as he stood over the popular swimming hole Wednesday afternoon, the rock on which he was perched broke off and sent him plummeting to the rocky bank below.

Adams, 19, of 524 47th St. South, was being treated in the intensive care unit of Carraway Methodist Medical Center late Wednesday night for multiple fractures, a hospital spokesman said.

It was the second accident at the quarry in three weeks. Kenneth Musgrave, 39, an assistant horse trainer at the Birmingham Race Course, died June 18 month when he dove off a 100-foot cliff into the water and apparently struck a rock.

Thursday's accident occurred about 50 yards from where Musgrave was killed.

Birmingham Fire Battalion Chief Tony Jackson said that Adams was lucky he didn't meet a similar fate.

"He's (Adams) extremely fortunate to be alive — especially considering those large rocks where he ended up landing," Jackson said.

What probably saved Adams was when "his fall was sort of broken by a tree that he fell through," Jackson said.

Firefighters were called to the scene off Mary Taylor Road and Southern Industrial Drive about 4:10 p.m. and found Adams lying on the bank of the quarry, Jackson said. Both Adams' legs were broken, and possibly some ribs, and he suffered other injuries, Jackson said.

He said five other people were at the quarry when the accident happened.

"Adams was standing on a rock about 80 feet above them when the rock broke off and he fell," Jackson said.

Because of the rough terrain, it took firefighters almost two hours to remove Adams from the quarry, Jackson said. A boat from Birmingham-Jefferson County Civil Defense was used to take Adams to an ambulance about a quarter-mile away, Jackson said.

The abandoned quarry, which has formed a lake accessible only by trails through a wooded area, has been a popular swimming area for years, officials said.