

Houston Chronicle

www.houstonchronicle.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002

Vol. 101

No. 94

50 Cents

Singer Brooks is named in injured worker's suit

GALVESTON — Singer Garth Brooks is among defendants in a lawsuit filed by a stagehand who fell 35 feet during preparations for Brooks' televised concert on South Padre Island last month.

Rigel Piper, 20, of Albuquerque, N.M., suffered a skull fracture, a ruptured spleen and a broken hip after falling from a lighting tower. Piper remains under outpatient care in his hometown.

Contractors who set up the stage, lights and sound system failed to provide safety lines for workers, said Houston attorney Jason Gibson. Piper, whose medical expenses have reached \$150,000, seeks unspecified damages in the suit filed here Monday.