

## Three drown at abandoned quarry

CHANNAHON (AP) — A Joliet man drowned after trying to rescue two young girls from the waters of an abandoned rock quarry during a weekend picnic with family and friends.

Authorities said Sharon Reese, 9, and her sister, Monica Reese, 7, both of Joliet, were wading in shallow water in the quarry when they apparently went over a drop-off and began struggling Saturday night.

Willie Brown, 35, a friend of the girls' mother, jumped into the water and tried to save them, authorities said.

"In trying to get the two girls back to shore, it must have pulled him under, and they all drowned," said

Bud Colvert, battalion chief of the Joliet Fire Department.

Colvert said Brown was on a picnic and fishing outing with the girls' mother, Marie Reese, and several other children.

Colvert did not know whether any of the victims knew how to swim.

Swimming is forbidden at the abandoned rock quarry, he said. But he estimated that 10 to 15 people have drowned there in the past 10 years.

"It's off limits ... but it seems they come from all over. And, invariably, every year we end up with a drowning of some sort down there," he said.

The victims' bodies were recovered by rescue teams from the Joliet and Channahon fire departments.

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