

Diver's body is missing in old limestone quarry

■ He was practicing and disappeared in water at Dutch Springs in Lower Nazareth Twp. Search will resume today.

By **PHIL BOYLE**
Of The Morning Call

Divers searched unsuccessfully for the body of a New Jersey man Tuesday after he disappeared in 60 feet of water while practicing dives at Dutch Springs on Hanoverville Road in Lower Nazareth Township.

The **victim's identity won't be released** until his family has been notified and divers have recovered his body, Northampton County Coroner Zachary Lysek said.

The man and another diver were "with two diving instructors and getting more diving experience when he disappeared at 2:44 p.m.," Lysek said. Divers began an extensive search of the quarry to find him.

Colonial Regional police Detective Charles Horvath said the search was in the east end of the quarry, behind the former Lower Nazareth Cement Co., now East Penn Transfer Co.

Horvath said the operation began as a search and rescue effort and turned into a search and recovery operation.

Recreation on the privately owned 93-acre parcel centers on scuba diving in a spring-fed quarry abandoned 50 years ago by the cement company.

Lysek said the diver apparently had some difficulty and disappeared in the water of the former 12-acre limestone quarry.

Diving is "a very dangerous activity," Lysek said. "When you are under water and something happens, there is little margin for error."

Three boats and about a dozen divers searched for the body until a storm moved into the area Tuesday night. The search will continue this morning.

Divers from the Whitehall Underwater Recovery Unit, Pennsylvania Water Rescue, Whitehall Township Rescue, Northampton Water Rescue and the Allentown Fire Department Dive Team searched for the body.

They were assisted by the Hecktown Fire Company, Bethlehem Township Ambulance, Hanover Township Ambulance and the Dutch Springs staff.

Since Dutch Springs opened in 1980, at least nine people have died during or immediately after diving or snorkeling there.

Here is a list of some of the incidents at the quarry in the past 10 years:

July 14, 2000 - Denise Ladley, 31, of Staten Island, N.Y., is seriously injured while diving.

Sept. 26, 1999 - Kathleen Garetti, 56, of Staten Island dies while diving.

Aug. 15, 1999 - Snorkeler Frank McKasty, 53, of New Hyde Park, N.Y., dies from an apparent heart attack.

July 31, 1999 - A diving coach and an ambulance crew save Nathan Connizzo, 53, of Little Falls, N.J., who became ill while swimming.

May 30, 1998 - Catherine Tracey, 48, of Philadelphia dies of heart failure while diving.

June 9, 1996 - Jose Perez, 33, of Hunter Point, Del., is hospitalized after becoming ill while diving.

Aug. 12, 1995 - An unidentified woman is injured while diving.

June 18, 1995 - Kevin Wallace of Brookside, N.J., is hospitalized after diving.

Oct. 1, 1994 - William R. Logue, 37, of Allentown dies after being stricken while scuba diving.

June 13, 1993 - Patricia Burke, 37, of West Collingswood, N.J., drowns while snorkeling.

Aug. 25, 1991 - Jacqueline Wood, 28, of Philadelphia drowns while diving.

April 14, 1991 - Raul Rocca, 38, of the Bronx, N.Y., has an apparent asthma attack while diving.

The death is the second water death at a Northampton County quarry in three weeks.

Mark MacAdam, 38, of 530 High St., Bethlehem, died June 26 while swimming at a Chapman quarry after he slipped on a ledge, hit his head and sank into 78 feet of water.

MacAdam was swimming with a group of about 10 friends in the quarry, off Route 248, when the accident happened. The quarry is owned by Celia Charles of Allentown.

2001 Jul multiple fatalities at quarry PA

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Dec 5, 2024