

# Man's drowning in quarry ruled accidental death

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The drowning death of a 20-year-old Binghamton man in a Town of Chenango quarry has been ruled accidental.

Robert Burts, of Travis Avenue, had been swimming Saturday in a quarry on private property off Kattelville Road in the Town of Chenango, according to state police.

An autopsy Monday at UHS Wilson Hospital in Johnson City verified the manner of his death, Trooper Nathan Riegal said Tuesday.

Chenango Bridge Fire Department officials said a rescue team responded at 6:18 p.m. Saturday to a report of a missing swimmer in the quarry.

Officials said Burts was swimming with three friends from a dock to a small island

200 yards away when he disappeared.

Riegal said parts of the quarry, which became flooded over the years, are up to 20 feet deep.

The initial search for Burts was suspended at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday, then renewed Sunday morning. New York State Police Scuba Team located Burts on Sunday.

Police are still awaiting the results of toxicology tests in Burts' death, which Riegal said will take at least several weeks.

Drownings in illegal swimming areas such as this one are rare, Riegal said.

"Swim in some area where you're familiar, whether it's an open body of water like a lake, or a pool," Riegal said.

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