



Division of Mineral Mining

## Fatal Accident Investigation: Sand Pit Drowning September 9, 2001

A seven year old boy drowned at an open pit sand mine in Accomack County on Sunday, September 9, 2001. The body was found in six feet of water, near the raised island, in the mined out portion of the mine site.



**RECOMMENDATION:** Water bodies at active or abandoned mine sites often appear to be desirable swimming holes or ice skating ponds; however, they often hide rock ledges, old mining equipment, and other hazards. In addition, the water can be deceptively deep and dangerously cold. Steep, slippery walls and unstable banks make exiting these swimming holes extremely difficult. Every year, dozens of people (children and adults) are injured or killed while exploring or playing on mine property. Always obey warning signs and fences and stay out of active or abandoned mine sites.

Remember: “STAY OUT – STAY ALIVE.”