

# 3 dead after weekend drowning, close calls on Lake County-area waterways

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**T**here were two water incidents on Petite Lake on the Chain O' Lakes over the weekend, including one drowning, and officials reported two incidents on beaches in Twin Lakes, Wis., on Sunday that left a toddler and a woman dead.

On Saturday, a 23-year-old Arlington Heights man died after he was under water for about two minutes while swimming near a sandbar on Petite Lake, an area north of Fox Lake where people anchor their boats and swim, according to Sgt. Christopher Covelli, spokesman for the Lake County Marine Unit.

Covelli said the marine patrol responded to the area just after 5 p.m. for someone unresponsive after being pulled from eight to 10 feet of water. He added that deputies who responded to the call attempted to perform CPR and used a defibrillator until paramedics arrived, but the man was pronounced dead after being transported to the Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville.

According to Covelli, alcohol might have been a factor in the incident. An autopsy was performed Monday afternoon and the man's identity and autopsy results will be released Tuesday, according to Lake County Coroner Howard Cooper.

On Sunday, marine unit deputies reported another man was pulled from the water in Petite Lake, but Covelli said while the man had been struggling in the water before being helped out, it was not classified as a near drowning and the victim refused treatment.

## **Swimmers, boaters mingle on Chain O' Lakes, but near-miss raises safety questions »**

Covelli said it is important for individuals to know their limitations in the water, and wearing a life vest can prevent a drowning.

On Sunday in Twin Lakes, a 3-year-old boy and a 54-year-old woman died in separate water-related incidents, one on each lake in the southeast Wisconsin community, according to a release from the Twin Lakes Police Department.

In the first incident, witnesses reported a woman was swimming and appeared to lose consciousness near Lance Park on Lake Mary around 12:30 p.m., and witnesses began CPR until paramedics arrived.

The woman was identified Monday as Carol Varney of Racine, and her death is being classified as a medical issue and not a drowning, according to the news release. She was transported to Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington for treatment, but she was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Around three hours later, authorities were called to Musial Beach on Lake Elizabeth for a possible drowning of a 3-year-old boy. Witnesses were performing CPR when rescuers arrived and the boy, identified Monday as Theodore R. Johnson of Twin Lakes, was taken to Aurora Hospital in Burlington, where he was pronounced dead.

In Waukegan on Sunday, rescuers were called to Lake Michigan when a person on a raft apparently started drifting far from shore, but according to Steve Lenzi, spokesman for the Waukegan Fire Department, a private boat picked up the person and no one was treated.