

Quarry safety

Quarries are private property and are typically fenced off and have signs posted. At the Stateline Quarry, the 90-acre site is surrounded by a post-and-wire fence. “No Trespassing” signs are in plain view.

STEEP, SLIPPERY WALLS

Quarry walls can have steep declines, which make it difficult for a swimmer to get out of the water. The Stateline Quarry walls are sheer, meaning they go straight down.

DANGEROUSLY COLD WATER

The water that fills in quarry pits can be very cold, which can shock the system of even the most experienced swimmer. Officials said the water temperature at the pit was in the mid-60s Wednesday.

HIDDEN DANGERS

Quarry water can hide objects at the bottom, such as rocks or unused machines. The Stateline Quarry has a flat bottom, and, according to Rockford Blacktop officials, there is no equipment at the bottom.

DECEPTIVELY DEEP WATER

The water in the quarry pit can be very deep. Officials at Rockford Blacktop, which owns the Stateline Quarry, said the water is about 15 feet, but that varies depending on rain and drainage. Emergency workers said the body of 28-year-old Ezekiel Andrews, who drowned at the quarry Wednesday, was found 25 feet down.