

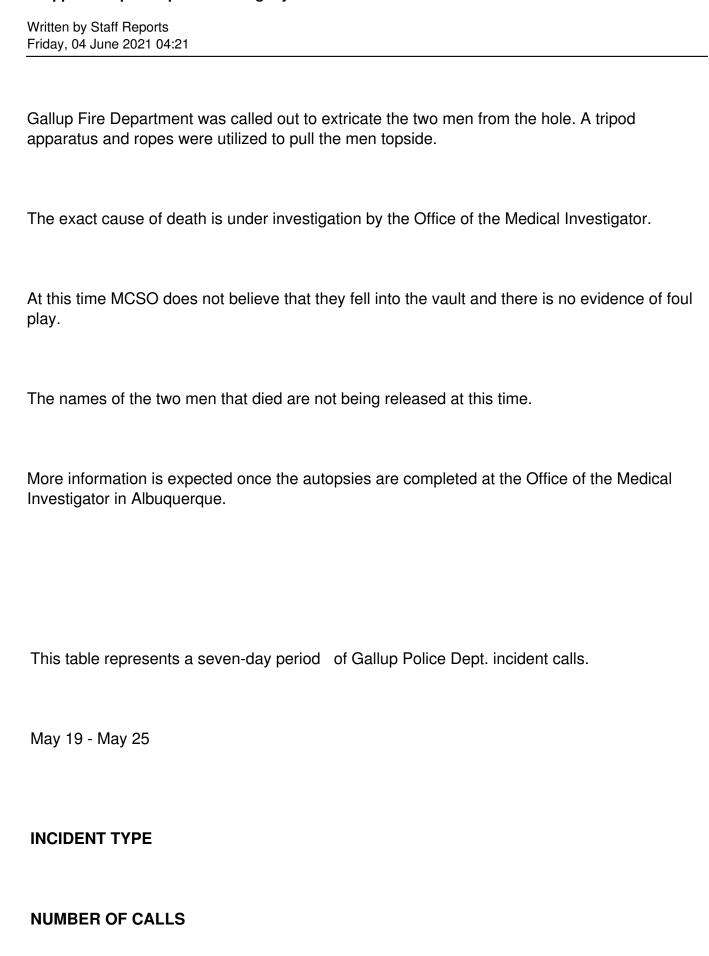
A cell phone dropped into a leech vault at the Northern New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority where three men were replacing a pump off Highway 371, north of Thoreau a little before 11:26 am on May 25. It wasn't an easy retrieval. The opening was similar in size to a manhole cover. The platform at the bottom was over 10 feet down with a ladder system attached to the inside wall.

It was initially reported to the McKinley County Sheriff's Office that one employee went to find a tool to recover the phone. But, when he returned he did not see the other two employees around the truck.

He looked into the vault and saw that both employees were at the bottom. Neither one of them was moving.

He did not enter the vault because of an overwhelming odor he described as a smell like gas.

Sheriff's Deputies along with McKinley County Fire and EMS from Thoreau and Prewitt were dispatched to the scene around 11:46 am, and fire personnel detected high levels of Hydrogen sulfide and methane inside the vault. One of their staff members descended into the vault wearing special gear. Both men were determined to be dead.



Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 04 June 2021 04:21
WELFARE CHECK
157
INTOXICATED
135
TRAFFIC-RELATED
72
POLICE REQUEST
53
DOMESTIC
35
ALARM

Written by Staff Reports Friday, 04 June 2021 04:21
34
LAW
27
ACCIDENT
21
ROUTINE PATROL
21
DISORDERLY SUBJECT
19
All other calls including.

Written by Staff Reports Friday, 04 June 2021 04:21

attempt to locate, burglary, battery,

assault, party call disturbance, etc.

219