

## Cesspool Collapse Claims Another Life

**June 12, 2007** Another death has been attributed to an antiquated cesspool in Suffolk County. The victim in this case was a landscaper, a husband and father of a young child, who was riding a heavy-duty lawn mower that reportedly weighed some 2000 pounds. As he rode over the underground vault, the 60 year-old structure gave way dropping the machine and its operator into the six foot deep man-made cavern.

According to reports, the heavy mower pinned the victim against the wall of the cesspool and he was unable to extricate himself. It was unclear whether the man died from his injuries or from drowning. An autopsy is planned.

For several years, and as long as this web site has been in existence, the Long Island Liquid Waste Association has been trying to raise the public's awareness about the dangers of the old fashioned "block construction" cesspools that are so prevalent in Suffolk County. We have sent out press releases, posted warnings and reprinted articles from other sources. Individual members of this organization have even conducted their own public awareness campaigns. But in light of this tragedy these efforts, however well intentioned, seem to have been inadequate.

It is of the utmost importance that state, county and local authorities, as well as the private sector, mobilize to inform the public about the dangers that lurk beneath their properties and the measures that can be taken to avoid other unnecessary injuries or fatalities.