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By Staff, Sep 5, 2001

LONG ISLAND MAN DIES IN CESSPOOL COLLAPSE

Long Island man practicing archery in the back yard with his two children died when his cesspool caved in and swallowed him, police said.

Michael Lobasso, 35, of Huntington, was standing on the ground above the cesspool -- a pit that collects waste from toilets and sinks -- when it gave way, said police. Officer Renee Hauser, a Suffolk County police spokeswoman, said Lobasso was an agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Manhattan.

Searchers recovered Lobasso's body Tuesday, about 18 hours after they had located it in the 18-foot-deep cesspool. They worked throughout Monday night to remove the body, because the walls of the cesspool were crumbling on top of the quicksand-like pool, police said.

When rescue workers arrived, they found a 3-foot-wide hole which grew to about 15 feet across as crews searched, according to Huntington Manor Fire Chief Charles Hoffman