

Raymond Faith, 27, of Schaumburg was pronounced dead early Thursday at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights.

Police said the van driver, John Hamill, 21, Palatine, was charged with drunken driving and failure to yield at a stop sign. Authorities said additional charges may be filed. Hamill and his two passengers escaped injury.

Drownings claimed at least two lives as temperatures soared Wednesday.

Salvador Perez, 25, of Westmont died Wednesday afternoon in a swimming mishap at Pioneer Park in West Chicago, authorities said. He was pronounced dead at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

A Chicago man who was trying to rescue a friend in trouble drowned in the Fox River near Yorkville early Wednesday, authorities said.

Police said Roberto Ramirez, 34, was pulled into the spillway of the Palmer Dam as he rescued a friend who also had been pulled into the spillway. Authorities found Ramirez' body about 90 minutes later. The unidentified friend was unhurt.

Police said signs had been posted in Spanish and English warning against swimming in the area.

The AAA-Chicago Motor Club had predicted that in Illinois and other Great Lake states about 3.7 million travelers would take a Fourth of July trip of 100 miles or more in a motor vehicle.

Nationwide, an estimated 27 million Americans were expected to take a trip in a motor vehicle, the lowest total in six years and 5 percent less than the number of travelers last year, the AAA-CMC said.