

Tow-rope accident blamed in boy's death

AP and Free Press Staff

MUNISING — Parents of a six-year-old boy were making funeral arrangements Tuesday after he was killed accidentally in a ski-lift device at an Upper Peninsula hill, relatives and city officials said.

Anthony Mazzali of La Porte, Texas, died Saturday night at Munising's Maple Mountain Ski Hill, Police Chief Douglas Miron said Tuesday.

"It appears from the investigation that his scarf became entangled in a

tow rope," said City Attorney Robb Ferguson. "There's no chair. People hang onto the rope, and it pulls them up the hill."

Ferguson said the ski operation is privately managed for the city.

Billie Mazzali, the boy's great aunt, said Anthony had experience on the slopes.

"He had skied a lot in Marquette," she said. "He knew how to use a tow rope."

Miron said it was the first time

someone had been killed or seriously injured at the ski hill. The hill, which had closed for Christmas, remained closed Tuesday.

Dr. Don Fahrbach, the Alger County medical examiner who handled the boy's autopsy, said he apparently died of strangulation after his clothing became caught in the lift machinery.

The boy and parents, Charles and Venita Mazzali, had been visiting relatives in the area.