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Media Release

For immediate release



Age Impacts on Autumn Drowning Toll

Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) drowning data released today shows that approximately two thirds of all drowning deaths for the Autumn months of March and April were men aged 50 and over, who were in the water for recreational activities. This group also featured highly in drowning statistics over the past summer. This is a worrying trend and it shows that it is not necessarily the youth who are making poor decisions.

Matt Claridge, General Manager WSNZ, states "All New Zealanders are at risk regardless of age and experience. It is disappointing to see mature people not taking the care they should."

WSNZ makes a further reminder to know your environment, have the necessary skills and be prepared before entering the water.

The total number of drowning deaths for the year to date (January – April) is 43. The average number for this period (2004 - 2008) is 45.

...Ends...

For more information or interview contact

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