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RESCUED HUNTER IS A REMINDER TO PLAN AND PREPARE WELL BEFORE HEADING OFF INTO REMOTE COUNTRY

The safe rescue of an inexperienced hunter earlier this week in a remote area of the Kaimanawa Ranges was good news, however the outcome could have been quite different if the weather had not been so favourable.

Mountain Safety Council Hunter Training Programme Manager Mike Spray, highlights the importance of thorough planning and preparation before heading off for a day trip hunting.

Mr Spray stated, "Before going into New Zealand's mountain areas regardless of the time of year, hunters need to have the skills and experience to deal with unexpected situations. Taking appropriate clothing and equipment and being able to cope with extreme weather conditions are all necessities for those who go into these environments". Even in November the weather can deteriorate rapidly and cold conditions can be encountered with little warning say's Mr Spray.

The Mountain Safety Council recommends all hunters venturing into bush and mountain areas to check on the weather conditions and plan their trip accordingly; to carry some means of emergency communication, either a mountain radio or a personal locator beacon, and; to be equipped to take shelter for an extra night should things go wrong.

"Even experienced hunters can strike problems in the outdoors. Survival may then rely on your ability to wait it out until conditions improve or to raise the alarm quickly. Careful preparation, making the right decisions and having a back-up plan when things go wrong can ensure your hunting trip is safe and enjoyable," Mr Spray said.

When venturing into the outdoors the Mountain Safety Council advises every hunter to follow the Outdoor Safety Code:

1. Plan the trip thoroughly – including telling someone where you're going and when you'll be back
2. Check the weather forecast
3. Maintain outdoor skills including navigation and dealing with emergencies
4. Carry sufficient clothing, equipment, food and water
5. Carry a means of emergency communication

For more information regarding safety in the outdoors, please visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz

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ABOUT THE NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL (MSC)

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council was formed in 1965 in response to the increasing number of mountain, bush and firearms fatalities. Today, MSC is a national organisation responsible for safety in land based outdoor activities. We facilitate the setting of standards, offer training, distribute resources, lead public awareness campaigns and foster positive support in the community so that more people can discover and enjoy New Zealand's outdoors safely.

MSC's volunteer firearms instructors are approved by NZ Police to deliver firearm safety training and administer the Firearm Safety Test to new firearms licence applicants. MSC is also proactive in delivering key firearms safety messaging campaigns throughout New Zealand and produces publications including the 'Going Hunting' pamphlet.

www.mountainsafety.org.nz