



23 March 2016

Media Release

For Immediate Release

## Hatch a plan safely this Easter

With a change of weather on the way around Easter, Mountain Safety Council CEO Mike Daisley is urging anyone going into the outdoors this weekend to prepare for rough conditions.

“What we are hearing from MetService is that they are tracking some significant systems just to the west of the country. This is potentially going to impact a great number of folks out in the outdoors as we head into Easter”

“It’s important to plan for the worst, and hope for the best. Alpine regions may see fresh snowfall, and lower altitudes could get heavy rain.”

“Take sufficient supplies to deal with a lot of rain and wind. The system is still developing, but the conditions could be severe in isolated places”

With potentially changing weather conditions comes a renewed focus on the outdoor safety code said Daisley.

“We are really trying to make sure we all make it home this long weekend. We’d like to go without a serious incident, and a big part of reducing that risk is making sure the outdoor safety code is followed”

“Plan your trip carefully, tell someone where you’re going, check the weather and how it’s going to relate to your region, know your own limits and the limits of the group and importantly take sufficient supplies to deal with the conditions.”

MetService communications meteorologist Lisa Murray is keen to highlight the changeability of conditions for outdoors enthusiasts.

“We have a very dynamic weather system affecting the country right now, and have issued Severe Weather Warnings and a Watch for heavy rain and strong wind in several places across the country. This system moves off New Zealand on Friday as a ridge of high pressure builds, bringing more settled weather for Saturday. On Sunday a cold front moves up the South Island, bringing more rain,” said Murray.

“So Easter and the lead-up to it sees a lot of different weather over New Zealand, starting with severe winds and heavy downpours of rain from warm tropical air on Thursday and Friday, then the weather settles down (and cools down) under a ridge on Saturday, followed by a southerly change on Sunday bringing rain to the South Island and North Island on Monday. People should be prepared for these changeable conditions if they are outdoors this Easter.”

Murray said, "The team at MetService would like to remind those going into the outdoors to keep up to date with the most recent forecast for the area they're visiting. The latest Severe Weather Warnings are online, on our mobile website and on our Apps."

For more information about how to stay safe this Easter head to <http://mountainsafety.org.nz>

**--ENDS--**

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Mike Daisley

Chief Executive

Cell: 027 443 7557

Email: [mike.daisley@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:mike.daisley@mountainsafety.org.nz)

Nick Kingstone

Communications Manager

Cell: 021 190 2930

Email: [nick.kingstone@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:nick.kingstone@mountainsafety.org.nz)