



Friendly warnings from NSRI to our overseas world cup visitors to South Africa.

There have been no sea rescue related incidents around our coastline involving overseas World Cup visitors (during the current 2010 World Cup) to date and we would like all our overseas visitors to remain safe on our waters.

The NSRI are urging our World Cup visitors from abroad to exercise caution around our coast when bathing, paddling, boating and surfing.

The winter months in South Africa bring extremely rough sea conditions to our coastline.

The South African coastline experiences extremely strong rip-currents throughout the year and bathers should exercise caution at all times as rip-currents are the greatest cause of drowning accidents around our coastline.

Boaters and paddlers should wear life-jackets at all times while on our waters, carry safety equipment and always let a responsible person know what time you are leaving, your exact route and your expected time of arrival. Stick to your route and check-in with the responsible person on your safe return.

The full moon on the 26th of June will bring with it the Spring Tides which result in the strongest rip-currents of the month but at all times expect strong rip-currents if you are bathing, paddling or surfing.

The NSRI have 30 sea rescue stations around our coastline and 3 rescue stations inland, (on the Vaal Dam, the Hartbeespoort Dam and on Victoria Lake in Germiston). NSRI is operated by 920 highly experienced unpaid volunteers and we are on-call 24 hours a day on high alert to respond to emergencies.

Donations, bequests and sponsorships are our sole source of income funding our fleet of rescue boats and our rescue equipment.

Our overseas visitors should not hesitate to call us to report a sea rescue emergency in progress.

The National Sea Rescue Institute has seven EMERGENCY phone numbers around our coastline on which to report a Sea Rescue Emergency (in progress) depending on which part of the coast you are on or which of these 'centres' you are closest to:

Richards Bay: 035-9053444 or 035-9051991.

Durban: 031-3618567

East London: 043-7002100

Port Elizabeth: 041- 5071911

Mossel Bay: 044-6046271

Cape Town: 021-4493500

Saldanha Bay: 022-7141726

When you report a sea rescue emergency in progress always give your phone number, your name, your exact position, the exact nature and position of the emergency and then stay by your phone and expect calls from our responding rescue personnel. We will call you back regularly while we are responding to the scene in order to get any updated information from you.

If you require further information about the NSRI please go to our website at www.nsri.org.za or email communications@searescue.org.za

Our office hours enquiry number at our NSRI Headquarters in Cape Town is: (021) 4344011.

Other important emergency phone numbers are:

The Ambulance and Rescue Services – 10177.

Police – 10111.

All Emergencies (from your cellphone) - 112

Many thanks for your cooperation. We wish all our visitors from abroad a safe and wonderful experience in our country.

-ENDS-

Released by:

Craig Lambinon
NSRI Communications
0823803800

[Communications@searescue.org.za](mailto:communications@searescue.org.za)

**Niall Wilkins
First Secretary Political
South African High Commission
Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DP**

Tel: 0207 451 7240

Fax: 0207 451 7283