



Media Release

Thursday 15 December 2016

“Drowning Incident – Causeway from Tu’anekeviale to Holeva”

Please attribute Statement to Deputy Commissioner Pelenatita Fe’ao Vaisuai

At 8.00pm yesterday Wednesday 14 December 2016, Doctor at the Prince Ngu Hospital advised Police in Neiafu that a 9year old boy had been rushed to the hospital claimed to have been drowned at sea.

The 9 year old boy was with a group of people who were swimming at the causeway from Tu’anekeviale to Holeva.

Doctor confirmed that the child died from drowning.

Tonga Police would like to offer their sympathies to the family at this sad time.

“Be safe on the water”

Our beaches become more inviting as the holiday period and summer temperatures approach, but Police is urging everyone to be cautious before taking the plunge.

Being safety conscious takes a little time but ensures a life time of fun in, on or under the water, says Deputy Commissioner Pelenatita Fe’ao Vaisuai.

To avoid these from occurring we all need to take time to consider all activities around water this coming festive season, even if it is just ensuring we are actively watching and supervising those in the water.

Make sure that you are familiar with the beaches that you’re taking your loved ones to, and if all else fails you can save yourself by ensuring your swimming ability is right for the conditions or you are wearing a life jacket.

"Our message to all this summer is to think safety before you put your boat or yourself in the water. Be prepared and keep an eye on the weather and water conditions.

If it's not looking good or you're not sure have a break.

ENDS

Issued by the: *Tonga Police Media & Communication Officer, Tonga Police Headquarters, Longolongo, (676) 23 318, (676) 23 323 Fax: (676) 23 036; for media enquiries – Email: siaadams@police.gov.to or siaadams@gmail.com*



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Always:

- Look at the tides and currents
- supervise children whenever they are near water
- check for hidden objects before jumping or diving in
- get in the water with children
- monitor the weather and water
- call for help at the first sign of trouble
- alcohol and water activity is not a safe mix
- check the sea worthiness of your boat and safety equipment before taking it out
- have fun

END.

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