

Five people lose their lives on province's roads



MANGLED WRECK: Five people were killed in four separate road accidents in the Western Cape at the weekend.

NADINE FORD-KRITZINGER

FIVE people lost their lives on the Western Cape roads and 25 people were arrested at the weekend, the majority of whom were found to be driving under the influence of alcohol.

It is reported that three drivers and two pedestrians lost their lives in separate incidents.

The accidents took place on the N2 Silverstream, on the R27 Ganze-kraal, N2 Plettenberg Bay and on the N2 Sir Lowry's Pass and in Paarl.

Road authorities have urged motorists to refrain from drinking alcohol and then driving, saying this puts other people's lives at risk.

Western Cape department of transport and public works spokesperson Byron la Hoe said: "A preliminary report from the provincial traffic service confirmed that five people died on the province's roads.

"Drivers under the influence of

alcohol put their own lives and those of their passengers in danger, as well as the lives of other road users.

"If you're drinking, don't drive or walk, help us create booze-free roads. If you have friends or family who still drive under the influence of alcohol, speak to them before they get into trouble with the law."

The past weekend saw traffic officials arrest a total of 23 motorists. Most of them were driving under the influence of alcohol.

"Six motorists were arrested in the Swellendam service area, four in Caledon, two in Knysna, two in George, one in Brackenfell, one in Vredendal and one in Worcester.

"In addition, traffic officers made six arrests of two drunken pedestrians in Vredendal, two drunken pedestrians in Oudtshoorn and two drivers for false documentation in Worcester," La Hoe said.

The operations by the officials also led to breath testing performed on

1673 drivers at 24 alcohol blitz road blocks across the province.

The highest breath alcohol reading was recorded in the George service area at 1.96mg of alcohol-1000ml of breath, this is eight times more than the legal limit of 0.24mg-1000ml, the spokesperson said.

A total of 85 speeding offence were also recorded by official and 178 fines in the amount of R223 950 were issued for a variety of reasons, ranging from driver offences to vehicle fitness violations.

"The highest speeds recorded were 157km/h in a 120km/h zone in the Beaufort West service area and 144km/h in a 100km/h zone in the Swellendam service area," La Hoe said.

He appealed to motorists to exercise caution and to respect the rules of the roads at all times so that they could arrive at their destinations safely.

nadinef@thenewage.co.za