



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Avalanche Awareness Days This Weekend

The Flathead National Forest and Glacier Country Avalanche Center are hosting Avalanche Awareness Days this coming weekend, January 19-21, at Big Mountain Resort, Whitefish, Montana.

The annual event is an opportunity to learn about avalanche dangers, safety equipment, search and rescue techniques, and snow science, as well as demo the latest in avalanche safety equipment.

Glacier Country Avalanche Center will host a kick-off event on Friday, January 19 at 7p.m. at the Craggy Range in Whitefish. The event will include presentations about backcountry skiing by local skiers. Beverages and appetizers will be available.

On Saturday and Sunday, January 20-21, activities will be hosted 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. atop Big Mountain. Avalanche safety equipment, information and video displays will be available in the lower level of the Summit House and the Summit Nature Center. Demonstration stations, off of Chair 1, will showcase the latest in search and rescue techniques and allow participants some hands-on experience with rescue gear. Avalanche and winter backcountry specialists will assist with equipment and techniques. Flathead Search and Rescue members will host avalanche dog demonstrations.

Participants that complete some of the rescue scenarios will be eligible to receive avalanche safety equipment, including a new beacon, shovel and probe.

Additional sponsors of Avalanche Awareness Days include Whitefish Community Foundation, Big Mountain Resort, Mammut and Back Country Access.

Flathead National Forest and Glacier Country Avalanche Center (GCAC) work cooperatively to provide education and information about snow and avalanches, including clinics and courses to build skills for informed and safe recreation in the backcountry.

Several upcoming avalanche awareness classes are scheduled at the Swan Ecosystem Center in Condon, The Wave in Whitefish, Jesco Boat Center in Kalispell and Flathead Outdoor Club in Kalispell. For more information about Avalanche Awareness Days or upcoming training, contact Andy Biehl at 758-5295 or visit www.glacieravalanche.org or www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

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