

February 21, 2008

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## **Avalanche Awareness Program for Snowmobilers**

The Flathead National Forest, in partnership with Glacier Country Avalanche Center, is sponsoring a free avalanche awareness and safety training program beginning Tuesday, February 26. The program, focused for snowmobilers, will consist of four evening lectures and a single Sunday all-day field session. This program meets the American Avalanche Association Level 1 guidelines.

The evening lectures will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 26, 28, and March 4 and 6 at the Flathead National Forest Office in Northwest Kalispell, 650 Wolfpack Way, 6:30 - 9:30pm. (located south of Glacier High School) The Sunday field session will be March 9.

Flathead National Forest Avalanche Specialist Stan Bones said, "The program will include information about avalanche terrain, mountain weather and snowpack, stability evaluation and decision making, and avalanche rescue." Bones encourages participants to attend all sessions to gain maximum benefit. Pre-registration is not required. For more information visit www.glacieravalanche.org or contact Bones in the evenings at 837-6022.

## **REMINDER:**

The Flathead National Forest issues avalanche advisories for Northwest Montana twice a week this time of year. Advisories include information about snowpack conditions, weather forecasts, and hazard evaluations. Visit <u>www.glacieravalanche.org</u> or call 406-257-8402 for these advisories. Anyone traveling in the backcountry will always need to make their own time and site specific avalanche hazard evaluations.