

January 7, 2008

Contact:

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Free Basic Avalanche Clinics Offered

The Flathead National Forest in partnership with Glacier Country Avalanche Center is sponsoring two free avalanche awareness clinics.

Thursday, January 10	7-8:30pm	Whitefish Library, Whitefish
Thursday, January 24	7-8:30pm	The Wave, Whitefish

Flathead National Forest spokesperson Denise Germann said, "These classes are a good basic introduction to avalanche awareness, and a great refresher." She encourages everyone that recreates or works in the area to consider participating in the basic class. Registration is not needed for the basic avalanche awareness classes. Germann continued, "Anyone interested in a more in-depth class should consider an Avalanche Level I or II class." For more information about the various classes offered, including additional basic classes scheduled at a later date, visit <u>www.glacieravalanche.org</u> or contact 758-5295.

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. Germann reminds backcountry travelers, "know the snow and the weather before you go!"

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