

**Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center**  
**Avalanche Advisory**

Contact: Kevin Davis (208) 265-6686, Ed Odegaard (208) 245-6209, or John Olson (208) 265-6635

This message is available by calling (208) 765-7323 or toll-free at 1-866-489-8664.

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This is Kevin Davis with the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center. Today is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We will begin issuing regular avalanche advisories this Friday. The avalanche advisory will be issued every Friday at 7:30 AM with an outlook for Saturday and Sunday, same as always. New for this year we are cooperating with the National Weather Service office in Spokane to include an Avalanche Advisory on the NOAA weather website. On Fridays when IPAC issues a hazard rating of HIGH or EXTREME the associated zone (north – Bonner and Boundary counties and south – Shoshone county) will be highlighted. A link to our avalanche advisory will be provided for access to more detailed information about the conditions. We will also continue with the email list so send us your email if you like receiving the advisory in your inbox. If you prefer to hear a real person you can still dial the hotline the old fashioned way.

I am sure many of you have been out in the mountains since we have gotten a good start to winter already. Please send us your pit data, avalanche observations and any other pertinent information so we can include it in the advisory.

This is a good time to hone your avalanche skills by taking an avalanche course. There are two great resources in our area for avalanche education. Shep Snow offers certified courses out of Sandpoint and teaches the field sessions at Schweitzer Mountain. For more information go to, <http://thesnowschool.com/>. Peak Adventures, in Cataldo, Idaho, is offering an avalanche awareness course the first weekend after New Year's Eve. For more information see their website at <https://peaksnowcats.com/>.

The State of Idaho Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the IPNF-AC, is conducting (**Free**) avalanche workshops for snowmobilers this winter in Coeur d' Alene on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Maries January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and in Bonners Ferry February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov), or call Marc Hildesheim, North Region Trails Specialist, at (208) 769-1511.

The Panhandle Avalanche Center in Sandpoint and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation is sponsoring free avalanche workshops for all snowgoers this winter. Our next course will be a day in the life of a backcountry powderhound, "What do you need to know, when, where, and how do I get the information I need, right now!" That will be offered 1/5/11 and is a slight change from what we have been advertising, but don't miss it. Then, "What we can learn from ten years of avalanche accident review in North Idaho", offered 2/9/11. These are offered at the new Forest Service Building in Sandpoint at 6PM and are

***Free to the public.*** For class schedules in the Silver Valley contact Dan Frigard at 752-5130. So far Dan has a workshop scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9AM and will be an interactive class focusing on avalanche dynamics. In Avery, contact Ed Odegaard at 245-6209.

If you have a group or club that is interested in more education on avalanche safety we will be available for free avalanche awareness classes beginning in December, so feel free to give us a call. As usual we would appreciate hearing from anyone who happens to observe any recent avalanche activity while out in the backcountry or just wants to let us know what is going on in their area.