



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
Media Release
January 3rd 2009**

On January 3rd at approx. 2:30 P.M. members of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Recreation Safety Section and the Northern Lakes Fire Department responded the area of Rathdrum Mountain for an injury snowmobile accident.

The operator, Michael Peterson a 31 year old male from Post Falls stated he was riding his snowmobile down hill. Peterson said he was heading for a tree and attempted to jump from the snowmobile, but his foot got stuck on the snowmobile. Peterson suffered a non-life threatening injury.

With the help of his riding group and the Northern Lakes Fire Department, we were able to transport Peterson from the mountain to an awaiting ambulance where he was taken to Kootenai Medical Center to be treated for his injuries. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department would like to remind all snowmobile operators to not ride by themselves, and tell friends or family where they will be riding.

**Rocky Watson
By: Deputy Will Klinkefus
Case # 09-00208**