



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE
DECEMBER 10, 2008**

The National Weather Service has issued a warning for Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington for a "Hazardous Weather Outlook" for this weekend and continuing into next week.

Beginning Friday morning, it is predicted that we could begin to experience heavy snow fall in the mountains and valleys of Kootenai County. Accumulations in the mountains of the Idaho Panhandle could reach 18 to 30 inches. Up to a foot of snow could be expected in the valleys, including the Coeur d'Alene area. The second phase of the storm, expected to hit our area late Saturday or early Sunday, is expected to bring strong arctic winds causing blowing and drifting snow with wind chill values from 10 to 20 degrees below zero. The third phase, early next week will bring cold arctic air, some of the coldest we have seen since January of 2004.

This weekend is traditionally a big weekend for people who wish to harvest their own Christmas tree. Travel on the already icy mountain roads is expected to be extremely hazardous and potentially impossible. Citizens are encouraged to seriously evaluate travel plans prior to going to the woods this weekend, or maybe changing plans to purchase a tree from one of the many local organizations or businesses.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger