



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE DECEMBER 18, 2008

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department has activated the Emergency Operations Center to assist in providing resources during this snow event.

Sheriff's deputies are out in marked and unmarked four-wheel drive vehicles responding to calls for service. Sheriff's Back Country deputies are also working and available with a variety of equipment to reach stranded people. They will also be assisting medical personnel if necessary to reach remote snowed-in locations.

According to the National Weather Service, we can expect up to another four inches of snow today, tapering off this evening. There may be snow showers tomorrow but they are not expected to cause a great deal of accumulation. However, Friday and Friday night could see blowing and gusting winds of around 20 mph causing the cold dry snow to drift and reduce visibility for travelers. Cold temperatures are expected in the region on Saturday and another band of snow can be expected late on Saturday into early Sunday with an additional 3-5 inches of snow.

People are encouraged to stay home, travel if only absolutely necessary. Road crews are hard at work trying to open up roads from the new official record 25 inches of snow that fell in the past 24 hours. People are also encouraged to check on neighbors, particularly the elderly who may need help during this event.

The Emergency Operations Center does have a public number for non-emergency snow related incidents. That number is (208) 446-2292.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger