



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE
DECEMBER 18, 2008
5:45 P.M.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department wants to let people know that as the clean-up from the record snowfall continues it is just as important for citizens to stay home on Friday in order that road crews and emergency personnel can get around to do their jobs.

All roads in the County remain difficult to navigate. Winds are causing snow to drift in many areas of the County and crews don't believe that they will be able to keep up with the drifting throughout the night. Road district supervisors report that the further north you go or in open areas, the worse the road conditions become. Travelers should consider staying the night in a motel or hotel if they have more than a short distance to go yet this evening.

All schools in Kootenai County are scheduled to be closed on Friday. All non-essential County offices will be closed on Friday as well. Kootenai County Treasurer, Tom Malzahn does want to remind residents that property taxes are still due no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 22nd. Tax payers can mail their taxes, drop them by any U.S. Bank location in Kootenai County or bring them to the Treasurer's Office on Monday, the 22nd.

Emergency personnel, equipped with a variety of specialty vehicles, will continue to respond to emergency calls. However, citizens need to understand that response times will be extended due to the conditions. Non-emergency calls may be delayed more than 24 hours.

Emergency responders remind citizens that it is a great help if you adopt a fire hydrant. Shovel a circle around the hydrant that is at least two to three feet wide all the way around the hydrant. This little extra work can mean the difference between saving a residence or even a life.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger