



S KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF ROCKY WATSON
UNDERSHERIFF TRAVIS CHANEY

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MEDIA RELEASE

With the upcoming holiday weekend and the forecast for warm sunny weather, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Recreation Safety Section would like to remind all recreational users to use caution while on the waterways of Kootenai County and in the Back Country.

The water temperature for most of the Kootenai County waterways is still very cold and the risk of hypothermia can still be present during this holiday weekend. Avista still has the Post Falls Dam on the Spokane River open and it is not expected to close until after the holiday weekend.

With the dam being open, the Spokane River is very hazardous both above and below the dam. The Recreation Safety Section would not recommend anyone to attempt to navigate the river unless they are familiar with the hazards caused by the low water above the dam. Along with the hazards above the dam, the water below the dam is extremely hazardous due to the large amount of water flowing through the dam. The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department would recommend that no one enter the water below the dam.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department will be conducting Marine and Back Country Patrols throughout this holiday weekend. During these patrols, some of the things we will be focusing on will be intoxicated drivers and boaters and proper safety equipment on vessels and other recreational vehicles.

If any recreational users have questions about water conditions, boating safety questions or questions about the Back Country they are encouraged to call the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Recreation Safety Section at 208-446-1300.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department hopes everyone has an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend.

Sheriff Rocky Watson
By: Sergeant Ryan Higgins