



S KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF ROCKY WATSON
UNDERSHERIFF TRAVIS CHANEY

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MEDIA RELEASE HIGH WATER UPDATE MAY 26, 2011 / 12:45 p.m.

The National Weather Service has updated water levels and predictions for local bodies of water for the next seven days. Cooler weather has allowed predictions to be reduced from previous levels.

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER AT CATALDO: The Coeur d'Alene River at Cataldo is now expected to crest at 42.26 feet in elevation early Friday morning. This is nearly three quarters of a foot below flood stage. The river is expected to begin dropping slowly over the next seven days.

COEUR D'ALENE LAKE: Predictions now are that Coeur d'Alene Lake will crest late, Saturday afternoon at 2,132.7 feet in elevation, 0.3 feet below flood stage. Officials will continue to monitor this level due to the implications dealing with No Wake Zones on Coeur d'Alene and Fernan Lakes as well as the Spokane River.

LAKE PEND OREILLE: Lake Pend Oreille continues to rise, but is expected to crest next week at 2062.12 feet in elevation. This is 1.38 feet below flood stage.

SPOKANE RIVER AT POST FALLS DAM: The Spokane River at the Post Falls dam is running at 32,700 cubic feet per second. That is equal to 1,059,480,000 gallons of water per hour. The river below the dam is very dangerous and people are urged to stay out of the water.

The Office of Emergency Management's policies allow for them to stage sandbags and order sand for stockpiling at local fire stations. These materials are to be used in "**an emergency situation affecting a community.**" Individuals who are concerned about personal high water issues are encouraged to use other resources such as sandbags and other materials that may be purchased from local businesses for their personal use.

Additionally, people are reminded that even though there may not be No Wake Zones in effect at this time, that courtesy and common sense must be used to help reduce damage to shorelines and personal property by boat wakes. Boaters are also reminded that there is a great deal of debris in the water and boaters need to take extra precautions to avoid striking trees, logs and other debris that may be floating or partially submerged in the water.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Major Ben Wolfinger