



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF  
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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**Kootenai County Sheriff's Department  
Press Release  
April 16, 2009**

With the predicted warm weather forecasted for this weekend and the possibility of more boaters on the waters in Kootenai County, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Dept. would like to remind all the recreational boaters to use caution while on the water. The current water temperature on Lake Coeur d' Alene is 40 degrees.

With the Post Falls Dam being completely open in anticipation of the increase in the winter runoff, the Spokane River is extremely hazardous. The water level decreases the closer you get to the dam. This exposes hazards that are typically submerged during the summer months. The Spokane River is flowing extremely fast and the Sheriff's Dept. is asking boaters to not operate on the river if at all possible.

Along with the hazards on the Spokane River, there are hazards on the lakes throughout the county. The increasing water levels means there is more debris on the water which creates a hazard to boaters as well as the possibility of shore erosion. The Sheriff's Dept. is asking boaters to use caution while boating on these waters and be aware of shoreline erosion and adhere to the county no wake zones which are 200 feet from shorelines or docks.

Just a reminder, Life Jackets save lives and they are a requirement on ALL vessels on any lakes or rivers.

The Sheriff's Department would also like to remind the citizens of Kootenai County that all of the roads into the back country are not passable due to current snow conditions and require specialty equipment such as ATVs and Snowmobiles.

If anyone has any questions please call the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Recreation Safety Section at 208-446-2250 or 208-446-1300.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By Dep. Ryan Higgins