



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

MEDIA RELEASE

****UPDATE****

On January 12th at around 8:40 AM, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the local Snowmobile Club and the Volunteer Search and Rescue unit located Fredrick Goodwin. Fredrick was on foot and working his way back to one of the trailheads. Fredrick was cold, wet and tired, and suffering from the onset of hypothermia. Medical personnel were requested for a patient evaluation and he was treated at the scene.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office would like to thank those members of the Snowmobile Club and the KCSO Volunteer Search and Rescue Unit for their assistance during this search. Additionally, we would like to thank the members of Two Bear Air from Montana and Air Force Rescue Center for their assistance during this search.

It is important for those outdoor enthusiasts to make sure they are prepared when they venture into the back country. Being prepared and having proper clothing, extra food, water and basic safety supplies are essential for survival.

If you have questions about what equipment you should have or what the conditions are in the backcountry you can call the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Recreation Safety Section at 208-446-1300.

**** Previous Media Release****

On January 11th 2018 at around 6:30 PM the Kootenai County Sheriff's office received a call about a missing snowmobiler in the Panhandle National Forest. It was reported that Fredrick Goodwin a 62 year old male from Rathdrum was leaving the Skitwish Warming Hut with his riding party. While heading back to the Fernan Trail Head, Fredrick was separated from his riding party.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office mobilized its Back County Unit and the Volunteer Search and Rescue unit and responded to the Fernan Trail Head. They began a search of the area, however due to the weather and visibility they were not able to immediately locate the missing rider. As visibility and the weather conditions continued to deteriorate, the initial search was suspended until morning when weather conditions were forecasted to improve.

Additional resources were also being called in to include a helicopter from Flathead County, Two Bear Air.

At this time this is still an active search and more information will be released as the search continues.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Lt. Ryan Higgins