



# SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE** **May 27, 2017**

**Post Falls, Idaho** - On May 27, 2017 at about 1215 pm, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office received a call of a kayaker in distress on the Spokane River below the Post Falls Dam east of Corbin Park.

The Sheriff's Recreation Safety Section and Dive Rescue Team responded to the scene and located the kayaker, later identified as Richard J. Thomas, 52 years old from Hayden, Idaho. Utilizing specialized equipment, he and his kayak were transported to shore. The teams were later able to locate and return a kayak down river that belonged to Thomas' wife, who had already made it safely to shore near Corbin Park prior emergency personnel's arrival. Mr. Thomas was not injured in the incident and was wearing his life jacket when his kayak took on water and overturned.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office wants to remind you that even though the weather is warm, the water is still very cold and the rivers are high and flowing fast. Please ensure that you have all your required safety equipment on board your boat and are knowledgeable about the areas that you are boating in. Finally, we always recommend you wear your personal flotation device (life jacket).

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger  
By Deputy Dale Johnson