Avalanche Education

By: Eric Knoff
Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, in conjunction with the Friends of the GNFAC, is dedicated to providing avalanche education to all backcountry users that enjoy the vast outdoor resources of southwest Montana. Attending an avalanche awareness program, whether it's a one hour awareness talk or a three day course, is a great way to become informed on how to travel safely in the backcountry.

Attending a class with your riding partners or family members is a productive way to become familiar with avalanche awareness, and is a great way to start out the season. Classes start in mid November and continue into February. The education schedule for this season’s programs is as follows:

**Big Sky**
Basic 1 hour awareness @ Grizzly Outfitters, Big Sky, MT Wednesday, November 16th, 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Big Timber**
Basic 1 hour awareness @ Big Timber High School Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Billings**
Basic 1 hour awareness @ The Basecamp, Billings, MT Thursday, November 17th, 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Bozeman**
Basic avalanche awareness course – Two evening classroom sessions @ MSU followed by a field day.
1st classroom session – Wednesday, November 30th, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ Leon Johnson Hall room 339
2nd classroom session – Thursday, December 1st, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ Leon Johnson Hall room 339
Field Session – Saturday, December 3rd, 9:00am-3:00pm @ Bridger Bowl.

Basic 1 hour awareness @ REI Bozeman, MT Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30pm-8pm

AAI Avalanche Level 1 @ Bridger Bowl – 3 Days
Friday, January 6th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, January 7th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, January 8th, 8:00am-4:00pm

Avalanche awareness for snowmobilers – 2 days
Saturday, January 7th, 12:00pm-4:30pm @ Bozeman Public Library
Sunday, January 8th, 8:00am-3:00pm @ location TBD
Basic 1 hour awareness @ REI Bozeman, MT Wednesday, January 11th, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Basic avalanche awareness course – Two evening classroom sessions followed by a field day.
1st classroom session – Wednesday, January 25th, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ location TBD
2nd classroom session – Thursday, January 26th, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ location TBD
Field Session – Saturday, January 28th, 9:00am-3:00pm @ Bridger Bowl

Advanced Avalanche Workshop – Two evening classroom sessions followed by one field day.
1st classroom session – Wednesday, February 1st, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ location TBD
2nd classroom session – Thursday, February 2nd, 7:00pm-9:30pm @ location TBD
Field session – Saturday, February 4th, 9:00am-4:00pm @ Bridger Bowl

AAI Avalanche Level 2 @ Bridger Bowl – 4 days
Friday, February 17th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, February 18th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, February 19th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Monday, February 20th, 8:00am-4:00pm

AAI Avalanche Level 1 @ Bridger Bowl – 4 days
Thursday, February 23rd, 8:00am-4:00pm
Friday, February 24th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, February 25th, 8:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, February 26th, 8:00am-4:00pm

Helena
Basic 1 hour awareness @ The Basecamp, Helena, MT Wednesday, November 9th, 6:30pm-7:30pm

West Yellowstone
Avalanche Awareness Course for Snowmobile Guides/Public – 2 days
Classroom session – Thursday, December 15th, 12:00pm-4:30pm @ Holiday Inn in West Yellowstone
Field session – Friday, December 16th, 8:00am-3:00pm @ location TBD

For more information on the classes and courses listed: Please visit your website at mtavalanche.com.