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.