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Mt. Hood National Forest  
16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055

U.S. Forest Service  
News Release



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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Public Invited to Avalanche Awareness Program**

**Hood River, OR** - The Forest Service will be presenting an Avalanche Awareness Program on February 11 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Dog River Coffee Shop, 411 Oak Street in Hood River. All interested members of the public are invited to attend. Valuable information on how to recreate safely in snow conditions will be presented.

This is a "must see" program for skiers, climbers, snowboarders, snowmobilers, snow shoers, hikers and anyone venturing out into the snow. Snow accidents can and do occur at any time. All that is needed for an avalanche to occur is suitable steep terrain, unstable snow structure, and something to tip the balance. Often the balance is tipped by anyone venturing out into the snow. Roland Emetaz of the Northwest Avalanche Center and Jim Thornton of the Forest Service will present valuable information intended to make people more aware about avalanches.

People attending the avalanche awareness session would learn about how terrain, snow cover, weather, and human factors all contribute to avalanche danger. Clues which indicate probabilities of avalanches, characteristics of relatively safe winter travel routes, and essential gear needed on winter outings are just some of the topics discussed. Information on what to do if caught in an avalanche will also be presented.

The program is free and open to the general public. For more information, please contact the Barlow Ranger District at 541-467-2291 or the Hood River Ranger District at 541-352-6002.

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