



## Becoming an RPIN Partner

### ***RPIN Background***

The Regional Public Information Network (RPIN) was created in 2000 to enhance jurisdictional cooperation and sharing of public health, transportation and emergency information. Participating partners include cities, counties, and other public agencies; health care; non-profits offering emergency assistance; and regulated utilities serving residents of Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

RPIN refers to three grassroots efforts:

- 1) *A network of public information officers (PIOs)*
- 2) *The RPIN Web site, accessed by media and the public*
- 3) *The RPIN e-alert subscription service for e-mail and pager notifications*

Today RPIN has about 60 partners, nearly 200 participating PIOs, and 2,700 individual subscribers to its electronic alerts. The Web site and e-alert service is hosted, administered and maintained by King County. The look and feel of the site is distinctive to RPIN.

### ***RPIN's Benefits for Partners and the Public***

Often service disruptions and emergencies cross jurisdictional boundaries. That makes it difficult for citizens to know where to go to find information. RPIN provides a one-stop place to post alerts and pushes them out to a targeted group of subscribers and the media. RPIN is one of the tools prescribed in the Regional Disaster Plan, PIO Appendix.

Since each posting is identified by its news source, partners remain in control of their own messages, which can be updated easily as news changes. Each agency retains control over what and when it publishes. By including your organization's URL in your RPIN posting, you can use RPIN to drive people to your own Web site for more information. RPIN also can be used as a redundant or contingency place to post information if your Web site goes down. It's quick and easy to use remotely.

Our upcoming upgrade of RPIN, financed by a Homeland Security grant, will add private networking benefits for PIOs.

### ***Partner Expectations***

No fees are charged to RPIN partners. Partners "pay" for RPIN by meeting three commitments:

- 1) Publishing appropriately to RPIN—for routine and emergency alerts
- 2) Promoting RPIN to your agency's audiences, including your employees
- 3) Maintaining tight security by guarding your password.

### **Learn More about RPIN. Then Join!**

Visit RPIN at <http://www.govlink.org/rpin/> and [subscribe](#) to RPIN e-alerts. Watch for site upgrades coming this summer.

Before July 30, contact Kathy Sharp at [Kathy.Sharp@METROKC.GOV](mailto:Kathy.Sharp@METROKC.GOV) or 206-684-1006 to become an RPIN partner. After August 1, contact Rochelle Ogershok at 206-296-6515 or [Rochelle.Ogershok@METROKC.GOV](mailto:Rochelle.Ogershok@METROKC.GOV) .