

Media Advisory – Dec. 10, 2010

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Residents encouraged to join emergency alert system

Residents interested in receiving up-to-date emergency notifications from Snohomish County are encouraged to sign up for its emergency management alert system.

Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM), in coordination with the county's 911 Call Centers is opening public enrollment in the county's MyStateUSA Alert Sense System. DEM periodically uses the alert system to warn residents of weather alerts and other pertinent safety information as needed.

Residents can choose to receive alerts by e-mail, text message and telephone calls. To subscribe, go to <http://snohomishcountywa.mystateusa.com> and click on the "Public Alert Sign Up" link in the top left corner.

This alert system enhances public agencies' ability to warn of hazardous weather and other emergency situations affecting the Snohomish County area. Additionally, the system allows individuals without landline phone service to link their address to their cell phone to receive notifications affecting their registered location.

Citizens with internet access or cell phones can subscribe for times they are away from home or without access to other notification systems. Emergency information will simultaneously be posted on the website when an alert is issued.

DEM provides emergency management services to unincorporated parts of the county, the cities of Arlington, Darrington, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Snohomish, Stanwood, Sultan, and the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribal Communities. SNOCOM 911 and SNOPAC 911 are the two public safety 9-1-1 communications centers serving all communities within Snohomish County.

The alert system is a partnership between Snohomish County and MyStateUSA, an Idaho-based provider of public warning technologies. The system allows local public safety agencies to seamlessly activate public warning systems and share information securely among responder agencies.

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