

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Snow in east county delays buses on some BG routes Monday

Monday morning, most of the 271-square-mile Battle Ground School District had bare pavement and above-freezing temperatures, just like the rest of Clark County. But such was not the case in the eastern and northern reaches of the district, where bus routes snake up two-lane, shoulderless roads into the foothills of the Cascades.

Before all Monday morning runs could be completed, buses serving Amboy Middle School, Yacolt Primary, Battle Ground High and Tukes Valley Primary and Middle were affected by accumulating snow.

In some cases, bus drivers put chains on in mid-route. By morning's end, five Amboy buses and two Yacolt buses were late. But a bus serving Tukes Valley Primary was the latest, delayed on Berry Road hill by cars and at least one garbage truck halted or spun out due to road conditions.

Eventually, after the bus was chained up and the road was cleared, the bus continued, arriving at school with its precious cargo at 10:42 a.m. -- 2 hours and 15 minutes late. Those students' parents were called by school personnel to inform them of the late arrival and well-being of the youngsters.

With snow continuing to fall, the decision was made at late morning to cancel afternoon kindergarten and pre-school at the Yacolt and Tukes Valley primaries and put all buses serving the five affected schools on snow routes for the end-of-the-day trips home.

The afternoon runs went smoothly through most of the affected area, although there were late buses here and there. The most problematic situation was on Garner Road, which links Yacolt with points west.

Four buses taking students home from Yacolt Primary were delayed after a car stalled in the snow. Two of the buses were not far back and had to stop, put on chains and wait. A snow plow was sent to the scene by the county. Two other Garner Road buses from Yacolt had been held up by dispatchers for the district's transportation company, Petermann Northwest, until the way was clear.

School District personnel, including David Gray, assistant superintendent for transportation, and Petermann personnel called the homes of every child on the four buses to inform them of the delay and assure them that all the youngsters were safe.

Yacolt Principal Ken Evans remained at the school to take any calls from parents as did Carmen Flores at the school district's transportation office. Monday night, Superintendent Shonny Bria called the few families that had not been reached by phone earlier.

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