

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Mechanic dies in accident at bus yard

A mechanic for the company that provides transportation to Battle Ground and Hockinson school districts died in an accident Wednesday night in the bus yard.

Almaz Kucukovic, 51, of Vancouver, was attempting to charge the dead battery on a bus parked in the Petermann Northwest yard on Northeast 199th Street in Battle Ground when the vehicle that was to provide the charge – a shop truck – began rolling. Authorities say he attempted to get back inside to stop the truck but slipped and fell under the wheel.

The 911 dispatch center was called at 8:15 p.m. Fire and police from Battle Ground responded, as did an AMR ambulance. The Washington State Patrol was notified and, as is standard in school bus incidents, is handling the investigation.

Kucukovic was a two-year employee of Petermann Northwest.

“It was a tragic accident; all of us here are in a state of shock,” Petermann manager Mike Gately said Thursday morning. “Almaz was a hard-working family man. We are deeply saddened by the loss.”

Two Battle Ground School District counselors went to the Petermann facility Thursday morning to offer support and counseling to colleagues and friends of Kucukovic, who leaves a wife and three children, one of whom is still living at home.

Petermann also provides bus service to the Hockinson School District, where the new school year began Wednesday. Battle Ground schools open next Wednesday.

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