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Transportation Operations Supervisors Rachel and Regina Bird, along with other Arthur Winston Division 5 managers, set up shop in the parking lot when a fire scare caused a two-hour evacuation of the transportation building. *Photo by Michael Walton*



Fire Alarm Didn't Delay Rollout at Arthur Winston Division

By RICH MORALLO

(April 22, 2005) At 1:30 p.m., last Tuesday, Rachel Bird was nearing the end of her shift at the dispatch window in the transportation building at Arthur Winston Division 5.

Then she smelled smoke.

"An operator came up to the counter and said he could smell fire," said Bird, a transportation operations supervisor. She could also see light smoke forming inside the building.

Assistant Transportation Manager Keith Green promptly sounded the alarm as Bird directed operators outdoors to the south parking lot. Other supervisors checked the second floor to make sure everyone was clearing the building.

The Fire Department arrived within minutes but Bird, her sister and fellow TOS Regina, and other supervisors still had bus service business to take care of.

"We did a head count for all of the operators, checked badge numbers and gave out assignments so the buses could continue to roll out and provide service to our customers," said Bird.

"The supervisors had put all of the necessary paperwork, schedules and keys to assign buses to our operators in a steno cart and processed about 100 operators over two hours in the parking lot," said Green.

Later, Bird learned that construction work on the roof may have

caused the smoke that crept into the ventilation shaft and the building. But, not even a little smoke could delay service.

"We kept our buses rolling," said Bird.

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