

Downpour creates havoc in the Klang Valley

Too late: A car was nearly submerged below the overhead LRT bridge in Jalan Chan Sow Lin in Kuala Lumpur on Monday evening.



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A DOWNPOUR caused havoc in Kuala Lumpur and Ampang on Monday evening uprooting trees and causing flash floods resulting in massive traffic jams.

A motorist managed to get out of his car after water started entering his vehicle below the overhead LRT bridge in Jalan Chan Sow Lin, Kuala Lumpur.

Strong winds uprooted six trees at two parking lots in Jalan Tun Razak, crushing 34 cars.

Kuala Lumpur Fire and Rescue Department assistant director of operations Azizan Ismail was quoted as saying that the affected parking lots were near Wisma Time and RHB Bank.

He said 20 personnel from the department and the Civil Defence

took more than three hours to clear the trees.

There were also tweets by road-users warning others of fallen trees along Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan Bukit Bintang heading towards Jalan Tun Razak.

In Ampang, heavy rain also caused a minor landslide in Jalan 4M in Ampang Jaya that resulted in a blackout until the wee hours of the morning.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) slope engineering unit officer Zafrul Fazry Mohd Fauzi said they were informed of the incident through one of their officers who was in the area as well as residents.

"We discovered that a tree had fallen onto the electricity cable and requested Tenaga Nasional Berhad to cut the power supply to the area while we cleared the tree," Zafrul

said.

He added that the incident saw a few boulders crashing down the slope.

"We have hired a contractor to cut the trees in the area. We will also be levelling the slope and covering the soil with tarpaulin sheets. The drain will also be cleared," he said.

Zafrul said the land office was trying to trace the landowner.

"The owner will have to take further action by hiring a consultant to check on the slope stability before submitting a proposal on what they intend to do with the land to the MPAJ," he said.

A resident said he was at home when the blackout took place about 6.30pm.

"I found out about the erosion just a few houses away from mine that is part of the row of bungalows

facing the slope," the 30-year-old man said.

He said the Fire and Rescue Department as well as MPAJ officers arrived quickly and the matter was handled efficiently.

"Two tractors were brought in to clear the earth as well as a crane to lift the fallen tree. Clearing work continued until 5am yesterday," he added. Electricity supply was reconnected at about 2.30am.

The resident also said another landslide occurred further down the road near a surau three years ago.

"Gabions were then placed along the stretch," he said.

"As long as no further development takes place here, I think it should be fine. Last year, the owner of the land had applied for approval to build a house on the slope but residents objected to it," he added.