

DISTRICT BRIDGE EMERGENCY CLOSURE RESPONSE AND NOTIFICATION

Austin District

Updated May 2025

This SOP is to clarify the procedure and information related to District implementation of Bridge Emergency: Response and Notification ([Bridge Emergency Response and Notification - SOP 2025](#)).

For all Bridge Damage Incidents call:

Whenever possible, coordinate first with local bridge owners (Area Office, Maintenance Section, Toll Authority, etc.) who are closer to the site for the initial assessment. Request that they send photos to the Austin Bridge Team to support the evaluation. In the case of major emergencies, the Austin Bridge Team will be deployed for further investigation.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| First Call | Bridge Emergency Phone | (512) 574 2603 | | |
| If not responsive, then direct information to: | | | | |
| Second Call | Mark Wallace | (512) 673 2984 | mark.wallace@txdot.gov | Bridge Inspection Coordinator |
| Third Call | Greg Sanders | (512) 298 9137 | gregory.sanders@txdot.gov | Team Lead |
| Fourth Call | Lianxiang Du | (512) 484 9496 | lianxiang.du@txdot.gov | Bridge Engineer |
| Fifth Call | Jorge Carrasco | (512) 739 1264 | jorge.carrasco@txdot.gov | Engineer |
| Sixth Call | Mathew Pridgen Henry Fernandez | (737) 990 8778 (512) 516 7420 | mathew.pridgen@txdot.gov henry.fernandez@txdot.gov | Bridge Inspection Team |
| Seventh Call | Bin Aregawl | (512) 949 7099 | biniam.aregawi@txdot.gov | Bridge & Hydraulics Supervisor |

*Please leave a voicemail and when possible, send follow-up email.

Initial Email Notification:

1.3.1 : District Designee¹ will send initial email notification when bridge closure has potential of exceeding 4 hours.

Reporting Process

- Summary of Information²
- Reporting Process: Contact List³, Additional Contact List⁴ & Bridge Inspection Database
- Timeline: within 8 hours

Any impact or other emergency to a bridge resulting in traffic restrictions expected to last longer than 4 hours is considered a reportable incident and must be reported.

Form Development:

1.3.2 : District Designee will work with maintenance Personnel⁵ to complete the necessary form (See Figure 1-Bridge Incident Reporting Form and Figure 2-Permit Restriction Application) and submits to correct reporting process

Reporting Process

- Bridge Incident Reporting Form
 - o For: Vehicular Impact
 - Form to be sent to District Permit Coordinator⁶
 - District Designee to upload to Bridge Inspection Database
- Permit Restriction Application
 - o For: Non-vehicular Incident
 - o Reporting Process:
 - Form to be sent to District Permit Coordinator
- Timeline: within 8 hours

1.3.3 Maintenance Personnel to provide necessary information within defined timeline to District Designee.

Initial Assessment of Bridge Site:

1.3.3: District Designee: will work with maintenance personnel to conduct initial assessment of the bridge site.

Vehicular Impact⁷

- Focus of observation: Impact location and consider any reduction in structural capacity
- Potential outcome (including but not limited to):
 - o Closure of bridge (full bridge closure)
 - o Closure of traffic lanes above/under bridge
 - o Closures of sidewalks above/under bridge
 - o Load Posting

Non- Vehicular Incidents⁸

- Focus of observation: Extent of damage and need for traffic restrictions
- Potential outcome (including but not limited to):
 - o Load Postings
 - o Closure of bridge (extensive scour damage)

Yearly Reporting: District Designee: will send *Bridge Overheight Impact Reporting Summary* spreadsheet.

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Figures

Figure 1-A: Bridge Incident Reporting Form (MCD Bridge Incident Form 2016)

Figure 1-B: Permit Restriction Application (Permit Restriction Form doc_01_2016)

Definitions:

¹ **District Designee:** person responsible for the overall response and notification of bridge emergencies that result in full or partial closures.

² Summary of Information

- Structure number
- Facility carried
- Feature crossed
- Date of damage
- Approximate time of incident
- Current status of bridge
- Damage summary
- Photos of damage
- Actual Clearance
- Signed Clearance
- Estimated Load Height (Include for over-height vehicular impacts only)

³ Contact List

- BRG_Notification
- District Engineer
- 'tx-fhwabridge@dot.gov'
- MCD_SizeWeight@TxDMV.gov
- MCD_Permit-Restriction@TxDMV.gov
- DMV_ENF_MC@TxDMV.gov

⁴ Additional Contact:

- Deputy District Engineer
- Area Engineer & Assistant Area Engineer
- District Maintenance Engineer
- Director of Operations
- TP&D Director
- Maintenance Supervisor
- District Design Engineer
- District PIO
- CC' District Bridge Engineer
- CC' District Permit Coordinator

⁵ **Maintenance Personnel:** Maintenance section staff participating in incident management

⁶ **District Permit Coordinator:** person responsible for reviewing both the Bridge Incident Reporting Form and Permit Restriction Application, then sending it to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles as soon as the bridge has been assessed and the lane/load limits determined (24 hours maximum).

⁷ **Vehicular impact** events include over-height impacts, column and rail impacts, and deck punch-through incidents.

⁸ **Non-vehicular incidents** include, but are not limited to, flooding, fires, and slope failures.