BRIDGE FAILURES

What if the bridges you depend upon every day collapsed because they could no longer withstand the forces of the load placed on them everyday?

Source: www.teachengineering.org
In addition to causing the failure of a protective town levee and extensive flooding of most homes and property, flash flooding caused the destruction of the I-20 bridge over Salt Draw between Toyah and Pecos, TX.

Source: www.teachengineering.org
Northern California bridge damage caused by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake in 1989.
Northern California freeway bridge damage caused by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake in 1989.

• How important is it that engineers test bridge materials and designs to failure?
Northern California freeway bridge damage caused by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake in 1989.

Do you trust that the bridges you use every day were designed and are maintained to be safe?
The I-35 interstate bridge in downtown Minneapolis, MN, collapsed into the Mississippi River during the rush hour on August 1, 2007, killing 13 people and injuring 100.

How important is bridge maintenance to you?
What might be possible causes for a bridge collapse?

I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis, MN

Source: www.teachengineering.org
I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis, MN
Image Sources

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More photos at: Minnesota Department of Transportation,
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/i35wbridge/photos/