

Keena Murphy
Taking the Suspense Out of Bridges

Over the years, engineers have come up with ideas that can help bridges be considered earthquake or disaster-proof. However, scientists have determined that there is no such thing as an earthquake or disaster-proof bridge. Because no matter how much work they put into it, there are still chances of the bridge collapsing.

My project is about warning people of the situation so they won't drive off of the collapsed or damaged bridge during the night time and possibly during the day time. If you can get a sign to light up when the bridge is damaged, this idea can possibly become reality. The use of a simple circuit is broken in the bridge, it opens that circuit and the electromagnet loses its power. The electromagnet then drops a metal plate which closes the other circuit outside the bridge thus turning the light on. That circuit is called a normally closed relay.

I have accepted the fact that no perfect bridge exists so I am proposing an idea that will keep other people from dying on those bridges. An illuminated sign will notify people of the danger ahead and the travelers will hopefully stop.

This idea can work with bridges that have collapsed or have been damaged in floods, earthquakes, or from excessive amounts of ice pressure.