



Saving Bridges with Innovation-Earthquake Engineers at University of Nevada, Reno to Test 110-ft Bridge Model to Failure



Standard bridges are severely damaged during strong earthquakes. They are designed that way to keep their cost under control. To save lives bridges are made so they do not collapse even though they are no longer usable. The question is what is the impact of having to close numerous damaged bridges in a city like Los Angeles or San Francisco at a time when these bridges are needed the most for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles? Solution- innovation! “Funded through a \$2M research grant by the National Science Foundation and the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES), UNR research team is taking advantage of unique features of materials such as Nickel-Titanium alloys, polyvinyl fibers mixed with cement, and rubber materials to prevent damage and avoid bridge closure even when there is a strong earthquake,” stated Prof. M. Saiidi, the Principal Investigator of the project. The lead PhD student for the project is Carlos Cruz. The testing is scheduled to start in early December and be completed on December 11, 2008. The large magnitude testing will be webcast for public viewing. Prof. Saiidi may be contacted at saiidi@unr.edu for more details.

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NSF Grant Numbers: CMS-042034