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Press Release

March 27, 2009

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Bridges and Tunnels Statement on Bronx-Whitestone Closure

Shortly after 1 p.m., a boom truck driven by a MTA Bridges and Tunnels contractor struck an overhead gantry sign on the Queensbound (southbound) plaza of the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge near the Queens anchorage.

The impact took down a nearly 45 foot wide and 15 foot high sign and the gantry, the metal system that supports signs, blocking six lanes (three southbound and three northbound lanes), and closing the bridge in both directions.

The truck, which has a crane attached to the back, was driving near the Queens anchorage when it struck the sign, splitting it in half. Two employees of Alpha Painting & Construction Company, Inc., suffered injuries and were taken to New York City Hospital of Queens (formerly Booth Memorial).

All traffic was removed safely from the bridge and is being diverted to the Throgs Neck and Robert F. Kennedy bridges.

Alpha Painting & Construction Company Inc., of Baltimore, Md., has been an MTA Bridges and Tunnels contractor since 2008. They were hired to paint the Queens and Bronx towers at the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge.