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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Bridge Employees Rescue Kids After Schoolbus Catches Fire at Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Toll Plaza

A class outing for a busload of 4-and-5-year old children from a Brooklyn elementary school was interrupted Friday morning when the bus caught fire near the Staten Island-bound toll plaza at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officers and staff acted quickly and heroically, dousing the flames and evacuating the children as smoke poured inside the bus.

The officers and maintenance workers formed a zone of safety around the school bus using patrol cars, wrecker trucks and other facility vehicles until the startled pre-schoolers and kindergarteners from P.S. 5 in Brooklyn were safely escorted out of the bus, into other vehicles and then driven to the bridge facility building adjacent to the toll plaza.

Traffic was stopped on the entire Upper Level of the bridge briefly after the 10:30 a.m. incident while the 35 children, their adult escorts and the bus driver were removed from the smoking bus. Roadway lanes on the Upper Level of the bridge reopened in staggered increments and all Upper Level lanes were reopened by 11:30 a.m. Traffic was not affected on the Lower Level of the bridge.

The fire was first noticed by **B&T Lt. Todd Suratt**, who was patrolling on the plaza. Facility maintenance workers, B&T Officers and an off-duty NYPD officer worked together quickly to subdue the flames using fire extinguishers. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

After FDNY personnel arrived and secured the bus, the children and passengers were examined by Emergency Medical Services at the site. No one required further medical attention.

While waiting for a school official to pick them up for the ride back to Brooklyn, **Verrazano-Narrows General Manager Daniel DeCrescenzo**, **Maintenance Superintendent William McCann** and other employees kept the youngsters entertained with facts about the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Robert F. Kennedy (formerly Triborough), Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.