



INFORMATION RELEASE

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ACCIDENT CLOSES STATE HIGHWAY 51 BRIDGE OVER THE OUACHITA RIVER AT ARKADELPHIA

CLARK COUNTY (6-28) – The Ouachita River Bridge on State Highway 51 in Arkadelphia was immediately closed to all traffic following an accident that damaged key overhead structural elements, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Shortly after 7:00 a.m. this morning a truck struck several horizontal and vertical beams on the bridge's superstructure. AHTD Heavy Bridge engineers are on scene assessing the damage and will work to place temporary supports until a permanent fix can be implemented.

The bridge will remain closed until further notice to traffic; however arrangements have been made that will permit emergency services vehicles to cross. A detour route has been established. See attached map.

Completed in 1960, the Ouachita River Bridge on State Highway 51 in Clark County is a Pratt Thru-Truss bridge that is 503 feet in length, 24 feet wide (two lanes of traffic), and carries 3,100 vehicles daily. The structure is on a 12-month inspection cycle. Its last inspection was yesterday.

A replacement structure is under construction on the downstream side of the bridge. Work began in April 2015 on a \$14.9 million contract let to Robinson Contractors, Inc. That project should be completed in the summer of 2017.

Highway 51 Bridge Detour

Arkadelphia, Clark County

