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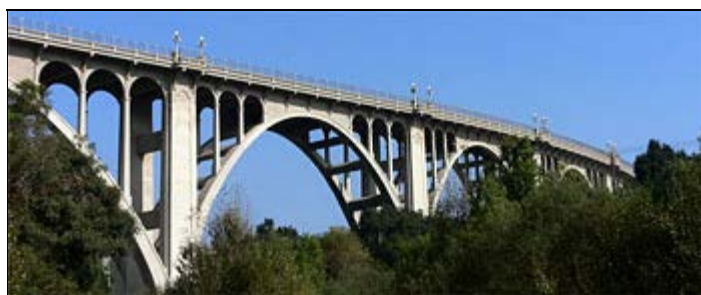
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Employee Helps Prevent Distraught Man from Plummeting to His Death

By CHAD SIMON

(Sept. 3, 2008) On Aug. 13, Ramon Gutierrez, property maintainer, Stops and Zones, helped prevent a distraught man from plummeting to his death, after the man had climbed the Colorado Street Bridge fence in Pasadena.

The man, who appeared to be in his late 20s or early 30s, was hanging from the bridge (long ago given the grim nickname of Suicide Bridge), which towers about 150 feet above the Arroyo Seco canyon.



The Colorado Street Bridge, built in Pasadena in 1913, was known among locals as "Suicide Bridge" following the stock market crash of 1929.

*Wikimedia Commons
photo by Mike Dillon*

According to Gutierrez, he was traveling westbound across the two-lane bridge at approximately 11 a.m. on his way to Highland Park when he saw a vehicle parked mysteriously in the middle of the road with its emergency lights flashing. Suddenly, he saw a man on the south side of the bridge hanging backwards from the fence in a jump position.

"I didn't want to startle him, so I put on my lights, crossed the street and approached the man slowly and spoke to him softly to calm him," Gutierrez said. "I held his legs and prayed while another gentleman who happened to be passing by jumped up onto the railing and started praying."

The whole ordeal lasted approximately five minutes until Pasadena police showed up and made the arrest.

"I just reacted to what the other guy was doing, so we could stop the man from jumping," Gutierrez said. "He was crying for help. Suddenly he turned around and grabbed the bars like he didn't want to jump."

