# Controlled Demolition Conducted on Francis Scott Key Bridge After Fatal Cargo Ship Collision



Crews conducted a controlled demolition of a section of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore on Monday. The bridge collapsed on March 26, 2024, when the cargo ship Dali, flagged in Singapore, lost power and collided with a support column, resulting in the deaths of six roadway construction workers.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released a preliminary report on Tuesday, detailing that the Dali experienced two electrical blackouts, disabling critical equipment prior to the collision. NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy noted that investigators are focusing on the ship's electrical power system and circuit breakers. Hyundai technicians have assisted in retrieving data related to the failure.

The FBI has launched a criminal investigation into whether the crew was aware of the system issues before setting sail. On April 15, law enforcement boarded the Dali, which remained trapped beneath the fallen bridge section until the demolition on Monday.

The accident halted most trade at the Port of Baltimore and raised concerns about the preparedness of federal and state authorities to prevent similar disruptions. Separate legal complaints alleging negligence have been filed against the Dali’s owner, Grace Ocean Private Ltd., and manager, Synergy Marine Pte Ltd., both based in Singapore. The companies have sought to limit their liability to approximately $43.6 million.

The NTSB’s preliminary report noted that the Dali left Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal at 12:39 a.m. and entered the shipping channel within 30 minutes. By 1:25 a.m., the ship’s alarms went off, and power was lost, causing the ship to drift toward the bridge. The collision occurred around 1:29 a.m. at a speed of just under seven knots.

The disaster has had significant economic impacts, including disrupting a major shipping channel and affecting local traffic, with 30,000 commuters relying on the bridge. The reconstruction of the bridge is expected to take years and cost potentially billions of dollars. President Joe Biden has committed federal support for the rebuilding efforts.

The NTSB’s investigation continues, with final conclusions expected in up to two years. Multiple probes aim to identify responsible parties and prevent future incidents.