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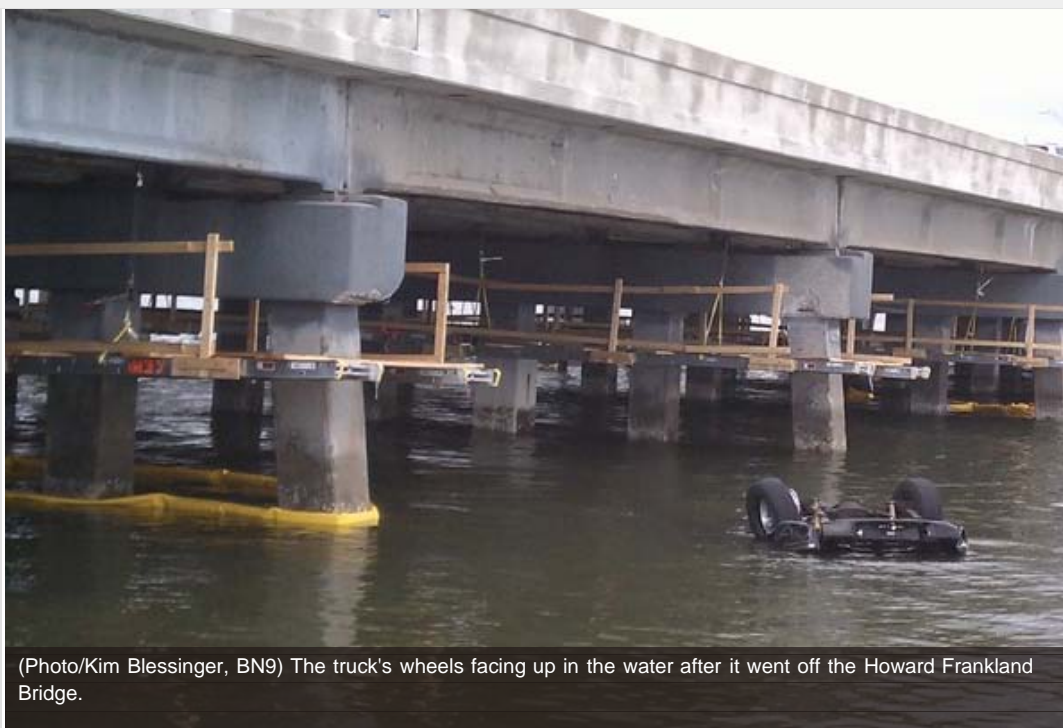
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Truck drives off Howard Frankland Bridge into water



(Photo/Kim Blessinger, BN9) The truck's wheels facing up in the water after it went off the Howard Frankland Bridge.



Last Updated: Sunday, April 24, 2011



ST. PETERSBURG -- A man was pulled from the water after his SUV ran off the Howard Frankland Bridge into the Bay Sunday afternoon.

Preliminary information from the Florida Highway Patrol indicates that the driver of the SUV was eastbound on the bridge when he traveled off the road, down an embankment, and crashed into a concrete barrier.

Witnesses said the vehicle then barreled into the water.

According to investigators, a group of boaters saw the SUV go into the water from about 150 yards away.

Immediately one of the boaters made his way to the SUV and dove into the water to find the driver.

"He was drifting away with the tide and started to sink down and so I dove off the top off the car and caught him



Hear from man who rescued driver after he ran off bridge

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- Hear from man who rescued driver after he ran off bridge

as he was sinking to the bottom," boater Robert Tramontana said. "I pulled him back up and luckily he started coughing up all the water."

Around 5 p.m., a team from Joe's Towing and Recovery arrived at the scene. Divers from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office hooked up the SUV to the tow truck and it was pulled out of the water.

The driver of the truck has been pulled out of the water and taken to Tampa General Hospital by ambulance. He is listed in stable condition.

Investigators are still trying to determine why the SUV traveled off of the bridge.

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