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Transcript



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0:00 [Music]

0:01 Burke County, North Carolina. Along Interstate 40, 11 miles of gridlock brings traffic to a

0:08 standstill. Desperate travelers resort to using an on-ramp as an

0:16 exit. The holdup at the front of the

0:20 [Music]

0:21 line. A tanker truck loaded with almost 9,000 gallons of gasoline loses control, rolls onto its

0:29 side, slides into an overpass, and explodes. At first, firefighters try to douse the flames, but the heat becomes

0:38 so intense they are forced to pull back and let the fire burn itself out. Heat in excess of 1500° melts the steel and

0:46 weakens the concrete on the overpass above. Then after burning nonstop for over an

0:57 [Music]

1:00 hour. Tons of debris crushed the truck, causing the remainder of the gasoline to ignite. In this time lapse of the 5

1:08 minutes leading up to the collapse, the overpass slowly sags, then crumbles.

1:20 Sadly, the truck driver loses his life in the crash. No other casualties are reported.

1:27 The collapse closes the interstate for a week, forcing 35,000 vehicles per day to jam a local highway used as a detour.



311 views Apr 5, 2025 [BURKE COUNTY](#)
Burke County, North Carolina, July 24, 1998

A tanker truck slammed into an interstate overpass Friday and exploded, the flames melting the bridge and causing it to collapse onto the rig. The state patrol said two people were killed but did not know whether the victims had been riding in the truck. Interstate 40 was expected to be closed at least a week.

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