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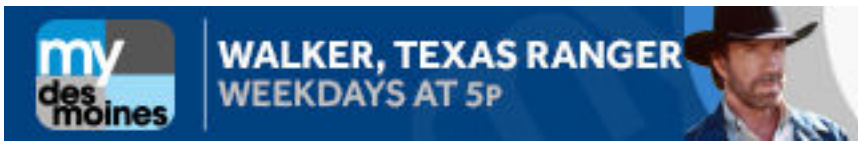

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DMACC offers new degree to help firefighter shortage

KCCI 8 DES MOINES

Updated: 11:31 AM CST Jan 28, 2022

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CLIVE, Iowa — A firefighter shortage is getting some help from Des Moines Area Community College. A new Emergency Response degree program combines traditional paramedic training with a concentration in fire science.

“There are huge challenges out there. So, we are working hard at DMACC to increase our capacity and to help get much-needed first responders in the field,” said Dr. Arthur Brown, DMACC dean of Health and Public Service.

One of Clive's newest part-time paramedics is Cheyanne Becker, 25. Becker is excited about

the new DMACC degree

“The adrenaline rush is probably the best part, there's nothing like it. So that is probably my favorite part of the job,” Becker said.

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She graduated from DMACC last year and missed out on the new degree.

“I would already have had that leg up on someone like me who came into the hiring process with just my paramedic needing that fire degree. It’s amazing what they're doing and I'm so

proud of them," Becker said.

Metro fire departments worked with DMACC to offer the new degree. The national firefighter shortage continues to be a problem.

"People would come to us and there was plenty of supply chain. Now we have to be proactive. Everybody is out there selling themselves and you almost feel like a college football coach out recruiting," said Rick Roe, Clive fire chief.

The new degree means graduates can avoid more on-the-job training and hit the ground running.

Graduates with the new Emergency Response degree can earn $60,000 to $70,000 a year with overtime.

You can learn more about the program here.

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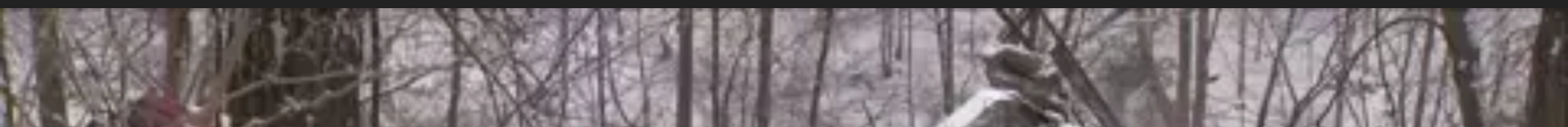

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Incredible video shows how bridge collapse stopped bus from careening into Pittsburgh ravine

PITTSBURGH'S ACTION NEWS 4

Updated: 10:36 AM CST Jan 28, 2022

By WTAE

PITTSBURGH — A new angle of the bus on the bridge at the time of the collapse shows what kept it from falling into the ravine.

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The video above from sister station WTAE shows that part of the bridge collapse flipped back up and kept the bus from careening down about 100 feet.

Initial images showed the bus on the bridge, but it did not show how part of the collapse itself was the reason why the bus didn't go further down.

You can see there were vehicles down below the site of the collapse as well.

"It's like it got folded in half. It's like something out of a movie," WTAE traffic reporter Sam Hall said. "Had it not folded in half, and cracked in half, and the other part kind of flipped over, that bus would've gone straight down."

The two-lane bridge collapse required rescuers to rappel nearly 150 feet while others formed a human chain to help rescue multiple people from the dangling bus.

Pittsburgh bridge collapse injures 10 people hours before Biden visit to talk infrastructure

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