



Bridge Rail Foundation Newsletter

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Stop the Suicides at the Golden Gate Bridge

Spread the word—send this on to a friend.

Golden Gate Bridge Suicides—31 in 2009

Marin County Coroner Ken Holmes today released his annual count of suicide deaths at the Golden Gate Bridge. "Last year 31 people took their lives at the Golden Gate—completing a decade of tragedy with hundreds of lives lost for want of a proper safety rail or net. This tragedy has now been going on for over 72 years," Holmes stated.



As with other recent years, the 2009 total comes from several sources. These include:

- 20 bodies recovered by the Coast Guard and delivered to the Marin Coroner.
- 9 suicides where no body was recovered but the death was witnessed on the Bridge or confirmed by subsequent review of security camera recordings.
- 2 additional suicides where there is a confirmed disappearance and evidence of a suicide—such as a suicide note or other personal effects—left on or near the Bridge.

These figures could go even higher as other jurisdictions may have bodies with injuries consistent with a bridge jump, yet the place of death has not been finally determined. Bridge district officials also reported 77 incidents where a suicide attempt was interrupted. These include witness, staff or security personnel intervention and instances where family or friends report a potential suicide and authorities are able to thwart the attempt.

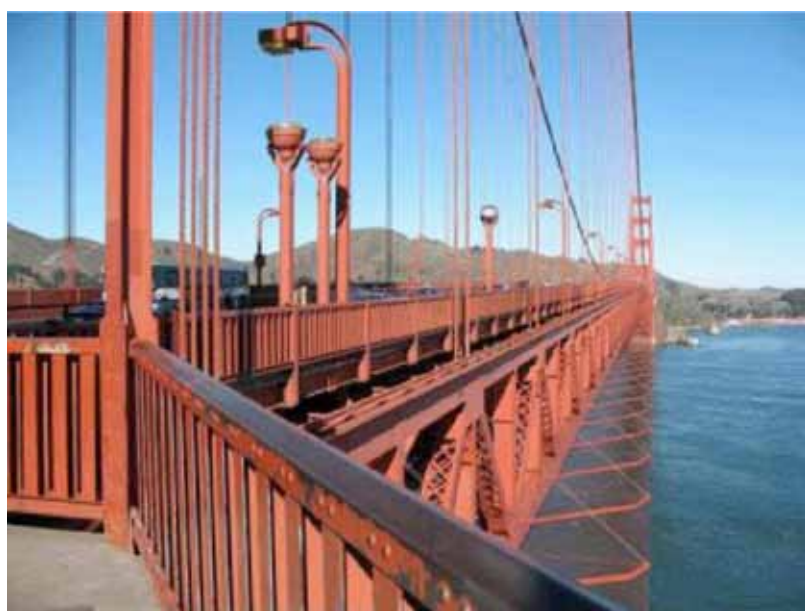
Time to Update the Death Toll



The 31 known deaths in 2009 compare with the 34 suicides the Marin Coroner reported in 2008. The total number of suicides from the Golden Gate well exceeds 1,300 and the new data from 2009—coupled with that of the previous several years—should provide the basis for a more complete and accurate count of the bridge death toll.

Historic figures are conservative, as jumps where no body was recovered have never made it into official counts. Also deaths reported in previous years often exclude bodies recovered in other jurisdictions. As a result, the full magnitude of this problem on the Golden Gate Bridge is not yet clear.

The Marin Coroner's Office and the Bridge Rail Foundation will be working over the next several months to revise the estimates of death at the Gate.



The End of Delay?

After much delay, revision and re-revision it appears the EIR on the GGB's suicide deterrent Net will soon surface--perhaps within weeks. The last six months have seen the process drag on--in part due to the furlough-induced staffing problem at CalTrans [the agency responsible for reviewing the EIR].

Once complete, we need to secure funds for final design and engineering of the net, while also seeking construction funds. Stay tuned--**it will be a very busy year.**

Whose Shoes Exhibit Will Travel



A group of BRF volunteers have taken our popular shoes exhibit to the next level.

In the past the exhibit has attempted to display a pair of shoes for each of the estimated 1,300 suicide deaths at the bridge. This has proven a very effective and dramatic representation of the magnitude of the bridge suicide problem. But the display had been anything but portable--with installations limited to Crissy Field and the Presidio's Thoreau Center.

The idea now is to add another capacity--smaller venues to make the presentation more widely available. So our volunteers suggested a portable display with a sampling of shoes and photographic representations taken from the larger presentations.

As a result we are now expanding the availability of the "Whose Shoes" exhibit, and can bring it to your community. Let us know if you are interested--*To send us a note--*[Click Here.](#)

Help Us Fight to Install the Net

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