**Critical Finding**

During a normally scheduled inspection the Team Leader discovers a:

- Substantial problem with a Fracture Critical Member
- Scour or Hydraulic problem
- Substantial traffic safety hazard
- Substantial reduction in Load Capacity  **OR**
- A “2-Critical” Summary Condition rating (note that a “2-Critical” is generally associated with a safety or weight restriction on the bridge)

that requires immediate protective or corrective action

**Personnel**

The three positions referenced (Team Leader, Control Authority Program Manager and Reviewer) are separate individuals in this process, however, these roles may be filled by the same person

**Protective or Corrective Measures**

Protective or corrective measures will vary depending upon many factors. The remedy may involve one or several steps to regain the serviceability of the structure. Examples of appropriate “Immediate” actions may include but are not limited to any combination of the following:

- Immediate permanent closure
- Immediate temporary closure
- Immediate lane closure
- Emergency repairs
- Set interval for follow-up inspections

Examples of appropriate “Short Term” actions may include but are not limited to any combination of the following:

- Load rating with Weight Posting
- Temporary shoring
- Emergency repairs
- Contract for permanent repairs
- Follow up inspections

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**Control Authority Program Manager Responsibility**

- Contacts the necessary public safety authorities so the immediate threat to public safety is averted

**Team Leader Responsibility**

- Ensures immediate, if necessary, corrective or protective measures are implemented to safeguard the traveling public
- Submits the completed inspection report to the Reviewer with Critical Finding Coded YES within 2-weeks of discovery

**Reviewer**

- Inspection software places the bridge inspection report at the top of the review list upon submission from the Team Leader
- The Reviewer completes the “Critical Finding Follow Up” in the normal review process and uploads inspection report

**FHWA**

- FHWA periodically reviews Critical Findings to share with other agencies responsible for bridges with similar details and conditions

Team Leader resets Critical Finding to “No Critical Finding Discovered” at the next scheduled inspection