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(54) Title: HIGHWAY CRASH ATTENUATOR FRAME

(57) Abstract: A highway crash attenuator frame (10) includes transverse elements (12, 14, 16) that are interconnected by side elements (18, 20, 22, 24). Each side element (18, 20, 22, 24) is disposed entirely on a respective side of a central longitudinal axis of the frame, and one or more tension elements (40, 42) are secured to the side elements (18, 20, 22, 24) to extend between the side elements (18, 20, 22, 24) across the longitudinal axis. Each tension element (40, 42) includes a mechanical fuse (44, 46) operative to fail in tension when the first and second side (18, 20) elements supply an excessive tensile load to the tension element (40). When the mechanical fuse (44) fails in tension in an impact, the side elements (18, 20) are simultaneously released to move outwardly, away from the longitudinal axis, and thereby to collapse in a way which is coordinated between the left and the right sides of the frame.



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