

Carl Golden / Christie is failing to control bridge-gate scandal

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Just as the military and national security agencies use color codes or acronyms to determine threat levels and assess the potential danger, the political establishment

While Middlesex County Assemblyman John Wisniewski has drawn considerable media attention in leading the Democratic Party effort to uncover the details of the closings and connect them to the governor's office, Rockefeller's move ups the ante.

Whether the story would have spread as quickly if Christie was not considered a leading candidate - the frontrunner in some quarters - for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016 is debatable.

The reaction proves, though, that the context in which the governor will be viewed as long as he remains a potential candidate has been established. Every action he takes, every bill he signs or vetoes, every word he utters will be dissected and scrutinized in agonizing detail to determine how they will play in Iowa, New Hampshire or South Carolina.

His initial reaction was vintage Christie - laughing it off with a sarcastic comment that he himself moved traffic cones around on the access roads. In retrospect, he probably wishes he hadn't made