

Appendix B: Accounts Indicating Foreknowledge of WTC 7's Destruction

Early Predictions

Michael Currid, FDNY*

Someone from the Office of Emergency Management told us that this building was in serious danger of collapse.... Rich, a few other people and I went inside to the stairwells and started yelling up, "Drop everything and get out!"

Dean E. Murphy, Editor, "September 11: An Oral History," 2002, pp. 175-176.

NIST NCSTAR 1-8

At approximately 11:30 AM, FDNY assigned a Chief Officer to take charge of operations at WTC 7.... When the Chief Officer in charge of WTC 7 got to Barclay Street and West Broadway, numerous firefighters and officers were coming out of WTC 7. These firefighters indicated that several blocks needed to be cleared around WTC 7 because they thought that the building was going to collapse.

Chief Peter Hayden, FDNY, BBC Conspiracy Files: 9/11 – The Third Tower

Narrator: Just after midday, firefighters were watching Tower 7 nervously. The Deputy Chief of the New York Fire Department that day [Peter Hayden] remembers the scene.... "[W]e had a discussion with one particular engineer there, and we asked him, if we allowed it to burn could we anticipate a collapse, and if so, how soon? And it turned out that he was pretty much right on the money. He said, 'In its current state you have about five hours.'"

Establishing a Safety Zone and Waiting

Captain Ray Goldback, FDNY

There was a big discussion going...about pulling all of our units out of 7 World Trade Center. Chief Nigro didn't feel it was worth taking the slightest chance of somebody else getting injured. So at that point we made a decision to take all of our units out of 7 World Trade Center because there was a potential for collapse.... Made the decision to back everybody away, took all the units and moved them all the way back toward North End Avenue, which is as far I guess west as you could get on Vesey Street, to keep them out of the way.

Frank Fellini, FDNY

For the next five or six hours we kept firefighters from working anywhere near that building....

Frank Conguista, FDNY

While we were searching the subbasements, they decided that 7 World Trade Center...was going to collapse.

David Moriarty, FDNY

Then I remember seeing like a few different chiefs at the corner throughout the day. They became very concerned about the condition of Seven World Trade and where we were in vicinity to that. They kept announcing the collapse and who's moving, and we got pushed further and further west.

Vincent Mazza, FDNY

Later on in the day as we were waiting for seven to come down, they kept backing us up Vesey, almost like a full block. They were concerned about seven coming down, and they kept changing us, establishing a collapse zone and backing us up.

Decosta Wright, FDNY EMT

[B]asically they measured out how far the building was going to come, so we knew exactly where we could stand.... Five blocks away.... Exactly right on point, the cloud just stopped right there.

Joseph Fortis, FDNY

They pulled us all back at the time, almost about an hour before it, because they were sure – they knew it was going to come down, but they weren't sure. So they pulled everyone back, and everybody stood there and we actually just waited and just waited and waited until it went down, because it was unsafe. They wouldn't let anyone next to I guess the two piles, we would call them, where one and two was. We stood back. We waited.

Media Reports

Aaron Brown, CNN

4:10 PM (1 hour and 10 minutes prior to the collapse): We are getting information now that one of the other buildings, Building 7 in the World Trade Center complex is on fire and has either collapsed or is collapsing.... Now we are told that there is a fire there and that building may collapse as well, as you can see.

Phil Hayton, BBC News

4:57 PM (23 minutes prior to the collapse): We've got some news just coming in actually that the Salomon Brothers building in New York right in the heart of Manhattan has also collapsed.

Hayton, 5:00 PM: The 47-story Salomon Brothers', situated very close to the World Trade Center, has also just collapsed.

Hayton, 5:07 PM: Now more on the latest building collapse in New York. You might have heard just a few moments ago I was talking about the Salomon Brothers building [WTC 7] collapsing. And indeed it has.... And it seems that this was not a result of a new attack. It was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks.... Jane, what more can you tell us about the Salomon Brothers building and its collapse?

Jane Standley, BBC News

5:08 PM: Well, really only what you already know. [Behind Standley the building is still standing. At 5:09 PM the caption on the bottom of the screen read: "The 47-storey Salomon Brothers building close to the World Trade Centre has also collapsed."]

Ashleigh Banfield, MSNBC

Time unknown: The tall one is number 7 World Trade Center. I've heard several reports from several different officers now that that is the building that is gonna go down next. In fact, one officer told me they're just waiting for that to come down at this point.... Oh my god.... This is it.

Banfield, after the collapse, exact time unknown: We had been warned. They were just waiting for this one to come down.... We'd been cleared five different times northward from Ground Zero.

Brian Williams, MSNBC

Minutes after the collapse: What we've been fearing all afternoon has apparently happened. We were watching number 7 World Trade.... This was a 40-story building they'd been watching all day.... We are on the phone with New York Fire Department David Rastuccio.... Can you confirm it was number 7 that just went in?... And you guys knew this was coming all day?

Planning or Consideration

David Rastuccio, FDNY, interviewed by Brian Williams, MSNBC

We had heard reports that the building was unstable and that eventually it would come down on its own or it would be taken down.

Indira Singh, EMT, on Guns and Butter Radio

By noon or one o'clock, they told us we had to move from that triage site...because Building 7 was going to come down or being brought down.

[Interviewer: Did they actually use the word "brought down" and who was it that was telling you that?] The fire department...and they did use the word "we're going to have to bring it down."

Jeffrey Shapiro, FOXNews.com

Shortly before the building collapsed, several NYPD officers and Con-Edison workers told me that Larry Silverstein...was on the phone with his insurance carrier to see if they would authorize the controlled demolition of the building — since its foundation was already unstable and expected to fall.

Larry Silverstein, WTC Leaseholder, on PBS

I remember getting a call from the fire department commander telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire. I said, "You know we've had such a terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it." And they made that decision to pull and we watched the building collapse.

**All accounts from FDNY personnel are from the FDNY World Trade Center Task Force Interviews unless otherwise noted.*