

Appendix A: Eyewitness Accounts of Explosions

Identification

Michael Donovan, FDNY

"I got up, I got into the parking garages, was knocked down by the percussion. I thought there had been an explosion or a bomb that they had blown up there."

James Duffy, FDNY

Q. "When either tower came down, did you have any advanced warning?"

A. "Oh, no. I didn't know what it was when we were inside. I didn't know the building had collapsed, actually. I thought it was a bomb. I thought a bomb had gone off."

Julio Marrero, FDNY

"That's when I just broke down and cried at Bellevue Hospital, because it was just so overwhelming. I just knew that what happened was horrific. It was a bombing."

Timothy Hoppey, FDNY

"...that's when we heard the rumble. I looked up, and it was just a black cloud directly overhead. At that point I was thinking it was a secondary explosion."

John Malley, FDNY

"As we walked through those revolving doors, that's when we felt the rumble. I felt the rumbling, and then I felt the force coming at me. I was like, what the hell is that? In my mind it was a bomb going off. The pressure got so great, I stepped back behind the columns separating the revolving doors. Then the force just blew past me."

William Reynolds, FDNY

"After a while, and I don't know how long it was, I was distracted by a large explosion from the south tower and it seemed like fire was shooting out a couple of hundred feet in each direction, then all of a sudden the top of the tower started coming down in a pancake..."

Q. "Bill, just one question. The fire that you saw, where was the fire? Like up at the upper levels where it started collapsing?"

A. "It appeared somewhere below that. Maybe twenty floors below the impact area of the plane..."

Q. "You're talking about the north tower now; right?"

A. "Before the north tower fell. He said, 'No.' I said, 'Why not? They blew up the other one.' I thought they blew it up with a bomb. I said, 'If they blew up the one, you know they're gonna blow up the other one.'"

Thomas Turilli, FDNY

"The door closed, they went up, and it just seemed a couple seconds and all of a sudden you just heard like it almost actually that day sounded like bombs going off, like boom, boom, boom, like seven or eight, and then just a huge wind..."

Louie Cacchioli, FDNY

"We were the first ones in the second tower after the plane struck. I was taking firefighters up in the elevator to the 24th floor to get in position to evacuate workers. On the last trip up a bomb went off. We think there was bombs set in the building."

T. Inman, PAPD (Port Authority Police Dept.)

"As a roll call was being taken of the responding Detectives, Tower #2 began to collapse. This occurred after a secondary explosion on the west side of the tower that appeared to take place in the area of the high 60's. The area above the secondary explosion actually leaned to the west and then the collapse took place."

Power

Frank Campagna, FDNY

"That's when it went. I looked back. You see three explosions and then the whole thing coming down. I turned my head and everybody was scattering."

Roy Chelsen, FDNY

"All of a sudden we heard this huge explosion, and that's when the tower started coming down."

Paul Curran, FDNY

"With that, all a sudden the tower went completely — a horrendous noise, a very, very tremendous explosion, and a very heavy wind came through the tower. The wind almost knocked you down."

Gary Gates, FDNY

"I looked up, and the building exploded, the building that we were very close to, which was one tower. The whole top came off like a volcano."

Jerry Gombo, FDNY

"...it felt sort of like an earthquake. The sky darkened and you heard this thunderous roar. It was like a volcano, if you will, not that I ever experienced a volcano, but I guess that's the way I could describe it, and this cloud just coming down. The ground was shaking and this roar..."

Edward Kennedy, FDNY

"We took two steps, there was a tremendous boom, explosion, we both turned around, and the top of the building was coming down at us. With this I just turned to Richie and said run."

George Kozlowski, FDNY

"As we were walking, we heard — we thought it was another plane coming. It was like a big shhhhhh. A thousand times louder than that. It sounded like a missile coming and we just started booking. We took off like bats out of

hell. We made it around the corner and that's when the shit hit the fan right then and there. We heard that loud and then ba boom. I just — it was like an earthquake or whatever. A giant. giant explosion...Then this big gust came and I just went flying, maybe 30, 40 feet. Tumbling. I got up, got on my hands and knees because all of the white shit was all over me. I just kept crawling. My ears were like deaf, you know, when you hear a giant firecracker or something."

Julio Marrero, FDNY

"...I heard a loud bang. We looked up, and we just saw the building starting to collapse. I looked over and started to scream at my partner, which he was inside the vehicle...I was screaming from the top of my lungs, and I must have been about ten feet away from her and she couldn't even hear me, because the building was so loud, the explosion, that she couldn't even hear me."

Edward Martinez, FDNY

"...I heard like a big explosion, a tremendous explosion, let me put it that way and rumbling sound. At that time I started seeing things coming down..."

Keith Murphy, FDNY

"I had heard right before the lights went out, I had heard a distant boom boom boom, sounded like three explosions. I don't know what it was. At the time, I would have said they sounded like bombs, but it was boom boom boom and then the lights all go out...I would say about 3, 4 seconds, all of a sudden this tremendous roar. It sounded like being in a tunnel with the train coming at you. It sounded like nothing I had ever heard in my life, but it didn't sound good. All of a sudden I could feel the floor started to shake and sway. We were being thrown like literally off our feet, side to side, getting banged around and then a tremendous wind started to happen. It probably lasted maybe 15 seconds, 10 to 15 seconds. It seemed like a hurricane force wind. It would blow you off your feet..."

John Murray, FDNY

"...we were standing there watching the north tower and not even paying attention to the south tower. Then you look up and it's like holy shit, the building didn't come down, it shot straight out over our heads, like straight across West Street. Holy shit, there is no fucking way we are going to out run this thing."

Richard Smiouskas, FDNY

"All of a sudden there was this groaning sound like a roar, grrrr. The ground started to shake...It looked like an earthquake. The ground was shaking. I fell to the floor. My camera bag opened up. The cameras went skidding across the floor. The windows started exploding in...I didn't know exactly what was going on outside. I'm thinking maybe the building snapped in half. I'm thinking maybe a bomb blew up. I'm thinking it could have been a nuclear."

C. Krueger, PAPD

"While searching the floor there was a tremendous explosion knocking me off my feet onto the floor, I was covered with debris..."

T. Marten, PAPD

"Then I heard a tremendous explosion and I looked up and saw Building Two snap at the top and collapse into it self."

Pt. Middleton, PAPD

"I was approximately one block away from Tower One when Tower Two appeared to explode at the roof top and several floors below. Then fire balls and debris shot out of the windows and rocketed into the skies and fall [fell?] below. As the Building began to disintegrate before your very eyes, there came an earth-shaking roar which grew louder and louder. Then all of a sudden a huge gigantic billing [billowing?] cloud filled with smoke, and ash. Pieces of cement particles and sections of the building came raining down...As the ash and cement particles began to build up under the vehicle it became pitch black out and suddenly the oxygen left the air and an intense heat was felt."

Patty Sabga, Journalist, CNN

Aaron Brown: "Patty, are you there?"

Patty Sabga: "Yes, I'm here."

Aaron Brown: "Whaddya got?"

Patty Sabga: "About an hour ago I was on the corner of Broadway and Park Place—that's about a thousand yards from the World Trade Center—when the first Tower collapsed. It was a *massive* explosion...When that explosion occurred it was like a scene out of a horror film..."

Teresa Veliz, civilian

"BOOM! The glass doors at the top of the escalator shattered. I thought it was a bomb. But then a huge wind, with the force of a hurricane, swept across us. I don't know what happened to the people standing in front of us, but I think they were blown away."

Pattern

Richard Banaciski, FDNY

"We were there I don't know, maybe 10, 15 minutes and then I just remember there was just an explosion. It seemed like on television they blow up these buildings. It seemed like it was going all the way around like a belt, all these explosions..."

Edward Cachia, FDNY

"As my officer and I were looking at the south tower, it just gave. It actually gave at a lower floor, not the floor where the plane hit, because we originally had thought there was like an internal detonation explosives because it went in succession, boom, boom, boom, boom, and then the tower came down."

Frank Cruthers, FDNY

"And while I was still in that immediate area, the south tower, 2 World Trade Center, there was what appeared to be at first an explosion. It appeared at the very top, simultaneously from all four sides, materials shot out horizontally. And then there seemed to be a momentary delay before you could see the beginning of the collapse."

Karin Deshore, FDNY

"Somewhere around the middle of the World Trade Center, there was this orange and red flash coming out. Initially it was just one flash. Then this flash just kept popping all the way around the building and that building had started to explode. The popping sound, and with each popping sound it was initially an orange and then red flash came out of the building and then it would just go all around the building on both sides as far as I could see. These popping sounds and the explosions were getting bigger, going both up and down and then all around the building."

Brian Dixon, FDNY

"I was watching the fire, watching the people jump and hearing a noise and looking up and seeing — it actually looked — the lowest floor of fire in the south tower actually looked like someone had planted explosives around it because the whole bottom I could see — I could see two sides of it and the other side — it just looked like that floor blew out."

Thomas Fitzpatrick, FDNY

"All we saw was a puff of smoke coming from about 2 thirds of the way up. Some people thought it was an explosion. I don't think I remember that. I remember seeing, it looked like sparkling around one specific layer of the building. I assume now that that was either windows starting to collapse like tinsel or something. Then the building started to come down. My initial reaction was that this was exactly the way it looks when they show you those impsions on TV."

Christopher Fenyo, FDNY

"About a couple minutes after George came back to me is when the south tower from our perspective exploded from about midway up the building. We all turned and ran... [p. 5]...At that point a debate began to rage because the perception was that the building looked like it had been taken out with charges."

Stephen Gregory, FDNY

"I thought that when I looked in the direction of the Trade Center before it came down, before No. 2 came down, that I saw low-level flashes. In my conversation with Lieutenant Evangelista, never mentioning this to him, he questioned me and asked me if I saw low-level flashes in front of the building, and I agreed with him because I thought — at that time I didn't know what it was. I mean, it could have been as a result of the building collapsing, things exploding, but I saw a flash flash flash and then it looked like the building came down."

Q. "Was that on the lower level of the building or up where the fire was?"

A. "No, the lower level of the building. You know like when they demolish a building, how when they blow up a building, when it falls down? That's what I thought I saw. And I didn't broach the topic to him, but he asked me. He said I don't know if I'm crazy, but I just wanted to ask you because you were standing right next to me. He said did you see anything by the building? And I said what do you mean by see anything? He said did you see any flashes? I said, yes, well, I thought it was just me. He said no, I saw them, too."

Daniel Rivera, FDNY

"Then that's when I kept on walking close to the south tower and that's when that building collapsed."

Q. "How did you know that it was coming down?"

A. "That noise. It was a noise."

Q. "What did you hear? What did you see?"

A. "It was a frigging noise. At first I thought it was—do you ever see professional demolition where they set the charges on certain floors and then you hear 'pop, pop, pop, pop, pop'? That's exactly what—because I thought it was that. When I heard that frigging noise, that's when I saw the building coming down."

Kenneth Rogers, FDNY

"...we were standing there with about five companies and we were just waiting for our assignment and then there was an explosion in the south tower, which according to this map, this exposure just blew out in flames. A lot of guys left at that point. I kept watching. Floor after floor after floor. One floor under another after another and when it hit about the fifth floor, I figured it was a bomb, because it looked like a synchronized deliberate kind of thing."

Pt. Middleton, PAPD

"As I continued to wave them back periodically you would hear a loud boom go off at the top of tower one...After approximately 15 minuets [minutes] suddenly there was another loud boom at the upper floors, then there was a series of smaller explosions which appeared to go completely around the building at the upper floors. And another loud earth shattering blast with a large fire ball which blew out more debris and at that point everyone began to run north on West Broad street. As the building began to crumble...we were over taken by another huge cloud of dust..."

John Bussey, Wall Street Journal

"Unknown to the dozens of firefighters on the street, and those of us still in offices in the neighborhood, the South Tower was weakening structurally. Off the phone, and collecting my thoughts for the next report, I heard metallic crashes and looked up out of the office window to see what seemed like perfectly synchronized explosions coming from each floor, spewing glass and metal outward. One after the other, from top to bottom, with a fraction of a second between, the floors blew to pieces. It was the building apparently collapsing in on itself, pancaking to the earth."

Ross Milantch, employee, Chase Manhattan Bank

"It started exploding...It was about the 70th floor. And each second another floor exploded out for about eight floors, before the cloud obscured it all."

A full compilation of the 156 eyewitness accounts identified by Dr. Graeme MacQueen can be viewed at <http://AE911Truth.org/downloads/156eyewitnessaccounts.pdf>.