

more than half of the length of that floor starting at the south edge. By 9:59 a.m. the flames could be seen over more than three-fourths of the floor width. Even though extensive, these flames were not intense since there was no flame extension and very little smoke was flowing from nearby windows. At around 9:39 a.m. small fires appeared to develop rapidly near the center and northern edges of the 94th floor. Almost simultaneously eight people were seen falling or climbing down from 94th floor windows near the center of the face. By the end of the period relatively low intensity flames were visible in most windows on the floor from the north face to well beyond the center of the face. The northward movement of the low-intensity fire on the 96th floor continued during the period, finally reaching the edge of the face around 9:53 a.m.

The large number of people who fell from the west side of the 94th floor around 9:40 a.m. was mentioned above. During the period, additional people were observed falling from higher floors on the north, east, and west sides of the tower.

Response of WTC 1 to the Collapse of WTC 2

At 9:58:59 a.m., WTC 2 began to collapse, and roughly 10 s later debris reached the ground. Very shortly after the collapse began, fire and smoke were pushed out of the south face of WTC 1, probably due to a pressure pulse transmitted to WTC 1 from the collapsing tower. The most prominent effect was on the 98th floor where flames were pushed out of windows along the west side of the face. There was also a distinct increase in the flame intensity on the west side of the 96th floor. It is likely significant that flames did not appear elsewhere on the face, perhaps indicating that large flames were only present near the periphery of the face at these locations.

Videos showed that no flames were pushed from open windows on the north face of WTC 1, but that fires burning on the 92nd, 94th, and 96th floors brightened noticeably. On the east face, flames near the south edge on both the 92nd and 96th floors flared out at roughly the same time the changes were observed on the north and south faces. Shortly after the collapse of WTC 2, the flow of smoke from the north face of WTC 1 stopped momentarily. The period of decreased smoke flow lasted for approximately 40 s.

Videos shot from the east showed that debris from WTC 2 passed in an arc across the east face of WTC 1, creating damage on the façade of WTC 1 that is visible in images taken shortly after the collapse. The highest marks on the building were just below the mechanical equipment room on the 75th and 76th floors. The damage appeared relatively superficial, and it is considered unlikely that it affected the subsequent fire behavior in the tower. Videos and eyewitness accounts indicate that large amounts of dust and some debris entered the lower floors of WTC 1 during the collapse of WTC 2. It is not known if damage at these lower locations could influence the fires near the top of the tower.

WTC 1 from 9:59 a.m. to 10:18 a.m.

The collapse of WTC 2 resulted in changes in the quantity and quality of visual material showing the faces of WTC 1. People near the site were forced to flee or seek shelter. Many photographers and videographers located further away changed their focus to the large dust clouds that covered much of lower Manhattan. The dust reached levels near the top of WTC 1 and obscured the faces. This was particularly true on the downwind east and south sides. As a result, the visual information following the collapse of WTC 2 was considerably less detailed than prior to this time. However, other evidence