

Records show that the system was placed on test condition every morning at about the same time, and specifically had been tested for the seven days preceding September 11, 2001. The readout for this date is shown in Figure 4–1.

09/11/01	14:48:22	DYJ	4612	**** FULL CLEAR ****	
09/11/01	14:47:22	LATE	3923	SYSTEM TEST OVER	
09/11/01	14:47:22	COMMENT:		TEST: ALL	
09/11/01	14:47:21	COMMENT:		LAST SET: 091101 64742	
09/11/01	10:00:52	1510	CO TO CLASS E	AREA:1	*T
09/11/01	06:47:43	COMMENT:		RIC: WILLIAMS	
09/11/01	06:47:03	RIC	4210	PLACE ON TEST	CAT:11
09/11/01	06:47:03	COMMENT:		091101 647 091101 1447	
09/11/01	06:47:02	COMMENT:		TEST: ALL	
09/11/01	06:05:01	RP		20 TIMER TEST	

Figure 4–1. Monitoring station history tape record for the WTC 7 fire alarm system on September 11, 2001.

The fire alarm history tape record is read from the bottom to the top. Some entries occur as the result of normal operations, and others are the result of actions taken by operators. The bottom line of the record shows that at 6:05:01 a.m. on September 11, 2001, the fire alarm system completed a normal communications check with the central monitoring station. This check was made every day.

At 6:47:02 a.m., AFA placed WTC 7 in a “TEST: ALL” condition. This was normally done in response to a request from the building manager. Ordinarily, it was requested when maintenance or other testing was being performed on the system, so that any alarms received from the system were considered the result of the maintenance or testing and were ignored. NIST was told by AFA that for systems placed in the TEST condition, alarm signals were not shown on the operator’s display, but records of the alarm were recorded into the history file.¹

At 6:47:03 a.m., the record includes an explanation of the request to put the system in the TEST condition. Continuing to read from bottom to top, the date and time the system was placed in TEST was recorded. In this case it was 091101 647 (6:47 a.m., September 11, 2001), and the system would have automatically gone back to normal monitoring after eight hours, a system default value, at 091101 1447 (September 11, 2001, 2:47 p.m.). On the next line above, “RIC” identifies the AFA operator; 4210 is a code number for the “PLACE ON TEST” message. CAT:11 indicates the authority of the person requesting the action, identified in the next line as Williams. Records indicated that the building alarm system was often placed on test.

At 10:00:52 a.m., a fire condition [1510 CO TO CLASS E] was indicated in WTC 7. The *T at the right end of that record indicates that the system was in TEST at the time. The alarm record also shows that the fire condition was in AREA 1. NIST has been told by AFA that AREA 1 was not a specific area within

¹ Letter from President, AFA Protective Systems to NIST, July 16, 2003.