

A larger area of the west face near the south edge is visible in the photograph shown in Figure 5–110, which was taken shortly after Figure 5–109 at 12:27:30 p.m. At this time flames were not evident in window 22-14A, but light smoke continued to flow from the window. Higher up on the face, smoke was coming from the six adjacent open windows 29-11 to 29-14A on the 29th floor, with heavy flames filling windows 29-11 and 29-12. As discussed in Section 5.5.2, the condition of windows 29-13A to 29-14A immediately following the collapse of WTC 1 could not be determined, while the glass was intact in windows 29-11 and 29-12. This suggests that the fire burning on this floor had opened windows 29-11 and 29-12 by 12:27:30 p.m.

Heavy smoke was also coming from open windows 30-13A to 30-14A on the 30th floor at this time. This suggests that a fire was also burning on this floor, but flames are not apparent in Figure 5–110. In a long distance view from the same short video clip from which Figure 5–109 was taken, these windows appeared to be intact. This indicates that the fire burning on this floor broke the glass from these windows during the short time period between the times when Figure 5–109 and Figure 5–110 were taken.

The appearance of the smoke on the south side of WTC 7 in Figure 5–110 demonstrates a difficulty that plagued attempts to use smoke to provide qualitative information about fire behavior. There appears to be relatively light-colored smoke on the south face at all of the floors visible in the image, while much denser and darker, rapidly rising smoke appeared to be flowing from windows near the west edge of the 30th floor. Due to the wind direction, it was common for smoke to “bank up” against the south face. For this reason, it was usually not possible to differentiate different types of smoke or to identify smoke source locations on the south face. Viewing difficulties resulting from the large amount of smoke on the south face were discussed earlier.

Figure 5–111 shows another view of the fires at the southwest corner on the 29th and 30th floors taken within a few minutes of Figure 5–110. At this time flames were visible on both floors. The appearance of the fires on the 29th floor is similar in both images. However, unlike in Figure 5–110, intense flames are visible on the 30th floor. Flames are apparent in windows 30-14, 30-14A, 30-15, and 30-16A to 30-16C. In the video it is clear that flames were coming from multiple windows on the south face. This is an indication that a fully developed flashed over fire was present in the corner of this floor at this time.



Figure 5–111. Frame from a video clip showing fires near the southwest corner of WTC 7 on the 29th and 30th floors around 12:28 a.m. ± 3 min.

The clip was recorded from West Street near its corner with Vesey Street. Intensity levels have been adjusted, and floor numbers have been added.