

Photographs show that by 12:47 p.m., flames were no longer evident inside any of the open windows on the 29th or 30th floors, and the fires had apparently not progressed further north on the west face, since no additional windows had been broken out. Taken together, these observations suggest that intense fires which grew in the southwest corners of these floors starting around noon had died down by 12:45 a.m. after burning intensely for a short period of time.

Photographs taken around 12:47 showed that the smaller fire seen earlier in window 22-14A had also died down, as can be seen in Figure 5–66. This fire had not grown sufficiently large to break additional windows along the west face. Interestingly, in a video clip shot just before 1:30 p.m. smoke is visible flowing from window 22-14. Apparently, a dormant fire had eventually grown large enough to break the glass in this window. Figure 5–67 shows a view of the west face taken from above much later, between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. It appears that the four windows, 22-13A to 22-14A, near the south edge were open at that time. Apparently, the fire on this floor spread very slowly to the north before dying out. Distinct smoke marks are visible above windows 19-14 and 19-14A in Figure 5–66, which was taken at 12:47:40, indicating that a fire had been present in the southwest corner of this floor prior to this time.

There are no images showing flames or other evidence of active fires above the 14th floor after about 1:00 p.m. No images showing flames on the south face or near the south edge of the west face of any floor of WTC 7 are available at times after 1:30 p.m.

Fires on or below the 13th Floor prior to 1:30 p.m.

There are no photographs or videos of any fires on the lower floors of WTC 7 before 1:30 p.m., although a witness saw a fire on the southwest corner of the 7th floor at about 12:15 p.m., before being rescued (Chapter 6). In the videos and photographs of WTC 7 taken from West Street between 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., smoke can often be seen flowing along the outer walls of lower floors of the west face at the south edge. Since the wind was blowing from the north and the visual evidence indicates no substantial fires were burning on or near Washington Street, this suggests that fires were burning on lower floors of the west face during this time, but it was not possible to identify windows where the smoke originated.

Fires on or below the 13th Floor on the West Face, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Images showing the initial spread of fire across floors on the west side of WTC 7 are very limited. Figure 5–112 shows a view of the west face taken in the early afternoon. Based on shadows apparent on the face the time is estimated to be between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. This photograph should be compared with Figure 5–88, which shows the same area of the face at an earlier time.

In Figure 5–112 smoke is visible coming from open windows 7-5 and 7-7 on the 7th floor, and windows 7-6 and 7-8 appear to be open as well. In the earlier photograph, no smoke was evident coming from windows on this floor, and glass was in place in each of the open windows mentioned above. Light smoke is also visible coming from the louvers in window 7-2 in Figure 5–112. The glass in windows 7-1A, 7-1B, 7-3 and 7-4 was still intact when the photograph was taken. The presence of smoke and additional broken windows indicates that a fire had progressed toward the north edge of the west face on the 7th floor by the time the photograph in Figure 5–112 was taken. Even though a fire was present that was capable of breaking out window glass, no flames are visible. It is possible that flames were present