

observations reported by other emergency responders who indicated that WTC 7 was considerably damaged by the collapse of WTC 1, and the potential for collapse of WTC 7 was taken seriously by these FDNY personnel. First-person interviews conducted by the news media, NIST, and FDNY communications recordings provide additional information on the building conditions, damage assessment, and emergency response operations at the scene. See the following statements:

- “There was a 10-story gash in the side of building 7. The southwest corner was taken out when Tower 1 came down.”²⁴
- “Early on, we saw a bulge in the southwest corner between Floors 10 and 13, and we had put a transit on that, and we were pretty sure she [WTC 7] was going to collapse.”²⁵
- “...you could see the structural members, literally 10 floors, were taken out. The corners were taken out.”²⁶
- “You could see where the north tower was and we looked back at 7 WTC, it looked like someone ripped a big gouge out of the building. It looked like a big chunk of it was torn out right here in this corner, ripped right out, the south west corner. Yes, and I remember when the dust cleared and I looked back at 7 WTC, there was a huge gouge.”²⁷
- “We went to Vesey and Greenwich and didn’t see any damage on the north and east sides of WTC 7. When we looked on the south side of WTC 7, there had to be a hole 20 stories tall in the building, with fire on several floors.”²⁸
- “We went out and around Building 6, down to the parking garage and to Vesey Street. We walked west. There was a 40-foot-high pile of steel in the street after Tower 1 collapsed.” “The fire had entered building 7. Fire was visible in 30 windows spread across four of the lower floors.”²⁹

According to statements issued by Silverstein Properties,³⁰

“In the afternoon of September 11, Mr. Silverstein spoke to the Fire Department Commander on site at Seven World Trade Center. The Commander told Mr. Silverstein that there were several firefighters in the building working to contain the fires. Mr. Silverstein expressed his view that the most important thing was to protect the safety of those firefighters, including, if necessary, to have them withdraw from the building.”

“With respect to Mr. Silverstein's statement, when recounting these events for a television documentary, that "I said, you know, we've had such terrible loss of life. Maybe the smartest thing to do is to pull it." (A Silverstein Properties

²⁴ Firehouse Magazine, July 2002, p. 46, Chief Mark Ferran, Battalion 12.

²⁵ Firehouse Magazine, April 2002, p. 97, Deputy Chief Peter Hayden.

²⁶ Firehouse Magazine, July 2002, p. 62, Lieutenant Pete Lund, Rescue 2.

²⁷ FDNY Interview 9, winter 2004.

²⁸ Firehouse Magazine, August 2002, pp. 90-92, Captain Chris Boyle, Engine 94.

²⁹ Firehouse Magazine, July 2002, p. 60, Lieutenant Glenn Rohan, Ladder 48.

³⁰ Letter from Silverstein Properties to NIST, March 24, 2006.