

spokesman) has said that by ‘it,’ Mr. Silverstein meant the contingent of firefighters remaining in the building.”

One Battalion Chief who had come from WTC 7 indicated that his unit had searched Floors 1 through 9 and found that the building was clear of people.³¹ In the process of the search, a Battalion Chief met the building’s Fire Safety Director and former Deputy Fire Safety Director on the 9th floor. The Fire Safety Director reported that the building’s floors had been cleared from the top down. By this time, a Chief Officer reassessed the building again and determined that fires appeared to be burning on the following floors: 6, 7, 8, 17, 21, and 30.^{12,15} No accurate time is available for these actions during the WTC 7 operations; however, the sequence of events indicates that it occurred during a time period from 12:30 p.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m.

At approximately 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., the FDNY Chief Officer in charge of operations at WTC 7 recommended to his Commanding Officer that they should give up on efforts to save WTC 7.¹² It was reported that the group of FDNY Chiefs who discussed the building conditions and FDNY’s capabilities for controlling the building fires formed the following conclusions concerning operations inside WTC 7:^{12,23}

- The WTC 7 building had sustained damage from debris falling into it, and they were not sure about the structural stability of the building.
- The building had large fires burning on at least six floors. Any one of these six fires would have been considered a large incident during normal FDNY operations.
- There was no water immediately available for fighting the fires.
- They didn’t have equipment, hose, standpipe kits, tools, and enough handie talkies for conducting operations inside the building.
- The reports that WTC 7 was making loud noises as it burned indicated to them that it might be unstable.³²

Fire conditions were also observed on the east face of WTC 7, and the fire was reported to be moving north through the 10th or 11th floor. Flames were coming out of the windows on this floor. The windows below the fire floor were intact. The windows on the fire floor were breaking out sequentially, in groups of two or three at a time, as the fire spread across the building. The rooms on the fire floor appeared to have reached a flashover condition. No heavy smoke was pushing out these windows.³³

No accurate time is available for the following events during the WTC 7 operations; however, the sequence of events indicates that they occurred between approximately 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. Consolidated Edison (Con Edison) personnel arrived at the scene and consulted with FDNY. They wanted to know if they should cut off the power at the WTC 7 power station. At that point in time, it was decided to leave the power on and not allow Con Edison personnel to enter the substations in WTC 7 because it was not safe. The Con Edison personnel also indicated that fuel tanks were located in the

³¹ FDNY Interview 26, winter 2004.

³² FDNY Interview 29, winter 2004.

³³ WTC 7 FDNY Interview 70, April 2004.