

Progress of World Trade Center Investigation

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News Media Briefing

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NIST's mission:

- Develop and promote measurement, standards, technology
- Enhance productivity
- Facilitate trade
- Improve the quality of life

NIST Structural Investigations

- Experienced, world-class investigators
- Forensic structural scientists
- Finding facts, improvements for the future

NIST Investigations (cont.)

- Establish probable technical cause
- Lead to important changes to standards, codes, practices
- Results given serious consideration

WTC Investigation

- Focusing on two WTC Towers and 47-story WTC 7 building
- Examining:
 - Why and how the buildings collapsed
 - Occupant behavior, evacuation, and emergency response
 - Design, construction, operation, maintenance
 - Building and fire codes, standards, practices

WTC Investigation (cont.)

- 24 month investigation to be completed August 2004
- One part of three-part response.
- Other parts are:
 - Multi-year R&D program to improve codes, standards, practices
 - Involving industry leaders in change to codes, standards, practices

WTC Response Plan Outcomes

- Make buildings safer
- Enhance safety of fire and emergency responders
- Better protect occupants and property in future
- Improve emergency response capabilities and procedures in future

National Construction Safety Team Act

- Modeled after National Transportation Safety Board
- NIST is the lead investigating agency –
 - Building performance
 - Emergency response
 - Evacuation procedures

NCST Advisory Committee

- Ten building and fire experts
- Selected based on
 - Technical expertise, experience
 - Professional service
 - Knowledge of investigation teams
- First meeting held April 29, 30

Liaison

- Draw on capabilities, expertise, and advice of many groups
- Provide information – briefings, progress reports, web site
- Skyscraper Safety Campaign

Liaison (cont.)

- New York authorities, including:
 - Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - FDNY
 - NYPD
 - Department of Buildings
 - Department of Design and Construction
 - Office of Emergency Management

Status of Information

- Received considerable cooperation
- NIST has large amount of information
- Some important documents still needed

Vital Photography, Video

- Still need photographic, video images
- Especially, south side of WTC 7
- News media can help by publicizing request and sharing photos, video

Public Safety

- Conducting interviews with:
 - Occupants
 - People with disabilities
 - First responders
 - People with safety responsibilities
 - Victims' family members
- Interviews to begin this summer

Ways to Help

- Participate in interviews (occupants, first responders, family members)
- Provide photos, videos, documents
- Contact:

NIST World Trade Center Investigation Team
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8610
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Progress Report

- First substantive report, far from complete
- Fireproofing of floor sections
- Outlines assessment approach of collapse sequence
- Fire model validation
- Plans for floor system testing
- Updates status of information collection

Bottom Line

**Make all buildings safer
for occupants and first responders.**