

**CLAIM: THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF HOW THE TWIN TOWERS COLLAPSED IS FALSE**  
*(I.E. THERE WERE BOMBS IN THE BUILDINGS).*

The impact of the hijacked flights into the Twin Towers caused immense damage within the buildings. The crashes of the commercial planes severed and damaged many of the buildings' columns, sparked fires on multiple floors, and dislodged much of the spray-on fireproofing in the impact zone that protected the steel from heat. Exacerbated by the lack of fireproofing, these fires, fueled by the jet fuel intended for the planes' cross-country flights, rapidly heated and significantly weakened the steel floors that connected the inner core columns to the outer perimeter columns. As metal heats, it gets weaker. As the floors weakened, they sagged, pulling in on the perimeter and core columns, causing them to bend inward. Ultimately, they buckled, causing the top of the building to fall, instigating a collapse of the entire building.

The five other buildings in the WTC complex were also destroyed because of damage sustained when the Twin Towers fell.

**RESOURCES**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST), [Final Report on the Collapse of the World Trade Center Towers](#), provides an overview of the investigation in the "Summary of Findings." The full report is also available online:

Summary of Findings: [www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/wtc/wtc\\_about.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/wtc/wtc_about.cfm)

Full Report: [www.nist.gov/customcf/get\\_pdf.cfm?pub\\_id=909017](http://www.nist.gov/customcf/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=909017)

An audio description of the collapse of the towers, by Shyam Sunder, lead investigator of NIST, provides a narrated slide show of the Twin Towers' final minutes:

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/world-trade-center-collapse.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/world-trade-center-collapse.html)

*Debunking 9/11 Bomb Theories* explains away various conspiracy theories regarding the collapse of the Twin Towers: [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/debunking-9-11-bomb-theories.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/debunking-9-11-bomb-theories.html)

**CLAIM:** 7 WTC WAS INTENTIONALLY DEMOLISHED (*I.E. IT WAS DESTROYED USING EXPLOSIVES*).

7 World Trade Center was a 47-story high-rise building located approximately 370 feet north of the North Tower. It collapsed at 5:20 p.m. on September 11. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) conducted an investigation into the collapse and released its final report in 2008. NIST determined that the collapse of the North Tower ignited fires on the lower floors in 7 WTC. On some floors, these fires burned out of control, as the sprinkler systems had become disabled. After burning unchecked for over six hours, a series of floors collapsed. Without these floors providing lateral support, a key column in the core of the building became unstable and buckled. The failure of this column initiated the progressive collapse of the entire building. NIST ruled out a controlled demolition, finding no evidence of any residue or sounds which would have accompanied a blast. Using video analysis, the investigation also determined that the top 18 stories of the building took 40% longer to descend than a free fall descent consistent with a controlled demolition.

#### RESOURCES

The [Final Report on the Collapse of WTC Building 7](#), issued by NIST, thoroughly discusses point by point how WTC 7 collapsed. Key findings are also accessible in FAQ form: [www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/wtc/faqs\\_wtc7.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/wtc/faqs_wtc7.cfm)

9/11 Memorial Museum Primary Sources page: [www.911memorial.org/911-primary-sources](http://www.911memorial.org/911-primary-sources)

Popular Mechanics published a series of articles debunking common conspiracy theories in 2005. These articles were later developed into a full length book: [www.popularmechanics.com/technology/design/a3524/4278874/](http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/design/a3524/4278874/)

The Internet Television Archive includes CNN's live footage of the collapse (begins at 15:40): [archive.org/details/cnn200109111708-1750](http://archive.org/details/cnn200109111708-1750)

**CLAIM:** A PLANE DIDN'T IMPACT THE PENTAGON (*I.E. A MISSILE HIT THE BUILDING*).

Hijacked Flight 77 struck the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. on September 11, 2001. Numerous, independent, eyewitnesses confirmed that they saw a large commercial airliner strike the building. Their recollections are corroborated by security footage from three different cameras stationed at the Pentagon, a nearby gas station, and a DoubleTree Hotel. In addition, photographs from dozens of different media outlets clearly show various plane parts strewn across the Pentagon lawn in the aftermath of the impact. The 9/11 Memorial Museum displays some of these fragments in our Historical Exhibition.

Additional skepticism stemmed from the size of the hole that the plane created in the Pentagon, which was substantially smaller in diameter than the 124-foot wingspan of a Boeing 757. Members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) concluded that the hole was consistent with the impact such a plane would make, noting that the wings wouldn't be strong enough to cut through a concrete-reinforced structure like the Pentagon—only the body of the plane and landing gear would have enough mass to penetrate.

#### RESOURCES

Our interactive timeline includes multiple images of the crash site, debris, and stills from security videos mentioned above. There is also an eyewitness account from Louise Rogers, a civilian working in the Pentagon who survived the impact of Flight 77: <http://timeline.911memorial.org/#Timeline/2>

In this oral history, Chief Robert Gray (Arlington Country Fire Department), discusses his experiences sifting through the rubble as a recovery worker at the Pentagon: [www.911memorial.org/oral-history-archives-2](http://www.911memorial.org/oral-history-archives-2)

Popular Mechanics published a series of articles debunking common conspiracy theories in 2005. These articles were later developed into a full length book:

[www.popularmechanics.com/military/a5659/debunking-911-myths-pentagon/](http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a5659/debunking-911-myths-pentagon/)