

Firefighter's Interviews - Sounds of Explosives or Explosive Sounds in the Towers

Debunking911

Introduction

Conspiracy theorists use quotes from firefighters as evidence of the use of explosives. Firefighters describe hearing "explosions" during the collapse of the buildings.

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to explore whether the firefighter quotes can be reliably used as evidence to deduce whether explosives were in the towers. This paper explores the possibility and examines how the conspiracy theorists present this information to the general public.

Observations

Not so Surprising omissions by conspiracy theorists

I have read most of the conspiracy theorist web sites along with most of the firefighter interviews during my research on this issue. Recently, a conspiracy theorist has written a paper suggesting there is more to the firefighter interviews than the general public realizes. The evidence is presented in a way which doesn't take all the evidence into account. An example is the quote from the paper below...

The Surprising Collapses

Although the 9/11 Commission Report acknowledges that fire chiefs on the scene thought the collapse of the Towers was impossible,[13] it is worth emphasizing the unanimity of the FDNY personnel on this point. Here are typical comments:

"...it took me a long time before I could accept the fact that even after you could see that the tower wasn't there you said it had to be there somewhere. You couldn't believe that it had come down." (Captain Michael Donovan, 9110205)

"I was a kind of in disbelief that the building was actually collapsing. I kind of stopped to say, well, maybe that was a piece of the facade. I couldn't believe that the entire building was going to collapse in one heap." (Captain Charles Clarke, 9110250)

"Once again, I'm doing this 23 years...This changed all the rules. This changed all the rules. This went from a structure to a wafer in seconds, in seconds. I couldn't believe the speed of that tower coming down. I heard the rumble, I looked up, debris was already 50 feet from the ground..." (Sergeant James Canham, 9110370)

"I've worked in Manhattan my whole career in high rises and everything else...you looked back, all you see--you know how fast those buildings came down...it just doesn't click that these buildings can come down...you just couldn't believe that those buildings could come down...there's no history of these buildings falling down." (Lieutenant Warren Smith, 9110223)

"Whoever in their right mind would have thought that the World Trade Center would ever fall down...Nobody in the world, nobody ever would ever have thought those buildings were coming down." (EMS Captain Mark Stone, 9110076)

You will note a few things here. The firemen are not civil or structural engineers and are not versed in the difference between the towers construction and the average NYC building construction. The construction not only played a large role in how the building survived the impact but also in why it fell so unexpectedly.¹ It would also be unreasonable to expect these firemen to know how a building would respond to an airliner impact which took its fireproofing off. They had no way of knowing the fireproofing was removed at the impact levels or how long the building would stand if it weren't in place.

Yet, not even considering the fireproofing and different construction, they did consider a partial collapse.

At that point, in time, we had a brief conference and we started calling everybody down in the north tower after the second plane hit. We had a number of conferences with the staff chiefs about the possibility of collapse. **We recognized the possibility of a collapse, but our thought process was that there was going to be a partial collapse, a gradual collapse after a couple of hours of burning**, and we thought we had time to complete the evacuation and get everybody out. - Deputy Chief Peter Hayden²

This omitted information is important to any hypothesis suggesting these quotes are evidence for controlled demolition because it puts the quotes into context. While they didn't know the building would suffer a global collapse, but they did consider a partial collapse. This evidence goes against the conspiracy story because if the fires weren't severe enough to weaken the steel, you would think they wouldn't even consider a normal partial collapse as would occur in a typically constructed building. They gave it **a couple of hours**, which just happens to be the fire code in NY for steel with fireproofing at the time of construction. The fireproofing was rated for two hours.

Omission of context

The context in which these quotes are given is important in this case. In the context of a conspiracy theory web site or paper, the quotes seem ominous. So many people using the word "**explosion**"... But in the context of a terrorist attack, and especially in the first few hours, it becomes understandable. All anyone knew at the time was that terrorists were attacking. Terrorists usually blow things up. They had already flown two planes into two buildings; it would not be unreasonable to expect the people on the scene to think of "bombs" when hearing loud sounds. Did they fly planes into the buildings AND blow them up? They had no way of knowing at that chaotic time.

Asbestos and Collapse Warnings well before 9/11

Levine's warning

In the years afterward, the man who had invented the original wet-asbestos spray fireproofing process, the late Herbert Levine, often voiced a warning.

"If a fire breaks out above the 64th floor, that building will fall down," he frequently said, according to his lawyer and other professionals who knew him.³

Later the NIST would find only one building had the old asbestos fireproofing and only up to the 38th floor.⁴

Misleading Arguments

The author of the paper goes on to make misleading statements about pancaking and the role of the 9/11 commission report. Here, the author says the NIST report doesn't mention pancaking, suggesting that pancaking did not occur. The NIST was not charged with putting conspiracy theorists' fears to rest so they never followed the collapse to the ground. The NIST report was for recommending future building codes to try and prevent future collapses and give people time to escape.⁵ The new Freedom Tower will be built using these new codes. Why would they talk about the pancaking which **followed** the collapse initiation? They went to the point where collapse was inevitable and then wrote, "Global collapse ensued". It is misleading to suggest the NIST is at odds with the commission report here since the pancake collapse which followed the sagging of trusses and bowing of columns that initiated the collapse, killed the most firemen.

Yes, one of the leading hypotheses for the collapse initiation **in the beginning** was pancaking but the NIST never held this view. This hypothesis took the lead in some papers and documentaries until all the evidence was examined by the NIST. Many of those papers and documentaries had nothing to do with the government but they are typically conflated by the conspiracy theorists as part of an "official story". The word "story" is injected as a propaganda tool to cast doubt on the NIST report.

During the course of any investigation, there are hypotheses which are tested against the evidence, which change the hypothesis. This is not uncommon. It's part of the scientific method. Something any true scientific journal should have uncovered - especially one purporting to seek truth.

The writer goes on to say that there is definitive evidence against pancaking but the evidence points to pancaking happening after collapse initiation.⁶

The author goes on to buttress his argument with a quote from Williams Reynolds:

"I was distracted by a large explosion from the south tower and it seemed like fire was shooting out a couple of hundred feet in each direction, then all of a sudden the top of the tower started coming down in a pancake..."

The author omits what the fireman thought may explain the explosive sound.

"...maybe I saw the bottom side where the plane was and the smoke was up above it."⁷

Unless every photo and video of the event was doctored, Reynolds hypothesis above seems to be reasonable.

The author of the paper graciously counts this quote as evidence of a non-explosives hypothesis but only after he has placed doubt in the reader's mind. He suggests that just because the firemen said "pancake," it doesn't mean that's what took place. He uses the NIST's quote out of context to say that the firefighter's quotes should not be taken seriously. The suggestion is that since the NIST said there was no pancaking, so the firemen have to be wrong when they talk of pancaking. This logic is created by misleading the reader into thinking the NIST was talking about the total collapse.

Yet, the author goes on to say that "explosion" and "bomb" are "less subject to ambiguity." I find this test troubling. One can hear loud sounds and describe them as an "explosion" that does not mean that it was explosives creating them. For instance, survivors of the Titanic heard an "Explosion" before the ship sank. It doesn't mean that bombs were placed on board and sank the ship.⁸

As with the Titanic, there are many possible places a sound of an explosion can come from during a collapse. The towers were, after all, among the largest buildings on earth.

Could transformers or other electrical equipment explain some of what the firefighters saw and heard? What about an acre of concrete floor slamming into another? Would steel bolts snapping under tremendous tension make a pop or explosive sound? Assuming the towers weren't in the vacuum of space, it's fairly safe to say the things I mentioned are good candidates to explain what the firemen heard. Even they think so...

I thought that when I looked in the direction of the Trade Center before it came down, before No. 2 came down, that I saw low-level flashes. In my conversation with Lieutenant Evangelista, never mentioning this to him, he questioned me and asked me if I saw low-level flashes in front of the building, and I agreed with him because I thought -- **at that time I didn't know what it was. I mean, it could have been as a result of the building collapsing, things exploding**, but I saw a flash flash flash and then it looked like the building came down...

...I don't know if that means anything. I mean, **I equate it to the building cowing down and pushing things down, it could have been electrical explosions, it could have been whatever.**⁹

What a transformer explosion looks and sounds like...

<http://www.stupidcollege.com/items/Electric-Transformer-Explosion>

These buildings, like most office buildings in America, contained transformers and other high voltage electrical equipment.

Electrical Fire Hurts 6 at Trade Center

Published: July 24, 1992

An air-conditioning transformer five stories below the World Trade Center caught fire after an explosion last night, the authorities said. Six people were injured, none of them seriously, but the 110-story twin towers did not have to be evacuated, the authorities said.

The fire was first reported at 10:02 P.M. in a 13,000-volt transformer in the Trade Center's refrigeration plant, which provides air conditioning and ventilation for the complex, the Fire Department and the Port Authority said. The electrical fire, which went to three alarms, was brought under control at 11:24 P.M., said a Fire Department official, Lieutenant Erick Weekes.¹⁰

February 26, 1993. It started like most other days. A 4 A.M. wake up, coffee and a buttered roll while driving to work at the Manhattan Central Office. At 12:18 P.M., lunch was being served when we received a call via a street alarm box at the corner of West & Liberty Streets. At the same time Engine Company 10, whose quarters are across the street from the World Trade Center, called us via radio and reported a possible transformer vault explosion on West Street near the Trade Center.

Transformer vault (also called manhole) explosions are fairly common place in Manhattan, especially during wet weather. They're highly visible and normally generate numerous telephone calls to the Central Office. We didn't think this one was going to be any different. When Engine 10 advised us by radio they had a working fire in the Trade Center, we thought the transformer vault

was located within the basement of the complex. Not a routine event, but still, it's only a transformer vault we thought.¹¹

"The Trade Center was never designed for the amount of emergency power necessary for all those trading floors they have there," Calabro said. "Tenants would come in and need emergency power, and it was not available."

To solve that problem, E-J Electric set four generators on the roof of Tower 5, which was nine stories, as opposed to the 110-story Towers 1 and 2. E-J then ran high-voltage feeder cable to Towers 1, 2, 4 and 5, installed three substations and distributed power to the tenants.

"We pulled 6,000 feet of high-voltage feeder cable from the roof of Tower 5, through the building, down through the concourse, through the parking garages and to the roof of Tower 1 and 2," Calabro said.

Current standard tenant power capacity is 6W up to 10W per usable square foot depending on location. The World Trade Center's electricity supply is segmented for greater reliability and safety. Eight dedicated 13,800-V feeders divide into 23 building substations. On-floor electrical distribution is routed via at least two electrical closets per floor, each with separate high- and low-voltage bus ducts for tenant-dedicated use.¹²

This is a deceptive quote from a conspiracy theory site...

"When we got to about 50 feet from the South Tower, we heard the most eerie sound that you would ever hear. A high-pitched noise and a popping noise made everyone stop. We all looked up. At the point, it all let go...

...There was an explosion and the whole top leaned toward us and started coming down. I stood there for a second in total awe, and then said, "What the F###?" I honestly thought it was Hollywood."

Now, let's examine what this firefighter said in the context in which he said it. Here is the part conspiracy sites leave out..

"When we got to about 50 ft from the South Tower, we heard the most eerie sound that you would ever hear. A high-pitched noise and a popping noise made everyone stop. We all looked up. At the point, it all let go. **The way I see it, it had to be the rivets.** The building let go, there was an explosion and the whole top leaned toward us and started coming down.

He said "**The way I see it, it had to be the rivets**" but the conspiracy site removes this important insight. They skipped over the sentence. There is only one reason to do something like that: to mislead the reader by removing all other possibilities for the sounds.¹³

He also says he thinks the rivets caused the building to fall and not bombs.

Here is what steel sounds like snapping...

<http://911myths.com/collapse2.rm>

Now look at the History Channel animation which explains what caused the explosive sound.

http://911myths.com/Big_Blue_Animation.avi

Even bodies hitting the ground sounded like explosions.

“The sight was amazing. I was just totally awestruck. I reported to the command post, showed my ID and asked if I could be of use. They said „Absolutely. Stand off on the side with the other medical people. I couldn't fight any fires because I did not have that kind of gear with me, but would have done it if asked.

“I decided to walk closer to the South Tower. I was about 100 ft from the South Tower looking up when the bodies started coming down. I counted 35. They were just piling up on the Marriott Marquis hotel. They were 10 to 15 thick piling up one after another. You could hear them hitting on the side streets. **They were hitting cars, and there were lots of explosions.**

“I have seen plenty of death in my life, and burned bodies and so forth, but this was incredible. As I was looking up, **I saw a body coming down, hit a lamppost and explode** like a paint ball. Its arms and legs got torn off and the head ripped off and bounced right by me.”

The person saying it was an explosion also says bodies hitting the ground like explosions. I'm sure they do. I'm sure that an acre of concrete floor crashing down onto another acre of concrete floor also sounds like an explosion.

The building was filled with electrical panels and cable feeding them. Some would be no different than a powerline...



It's not unreasonable to conclude, as at least one fireman did, that the flashes might have been electrical in nature.

We may never know exactly what caused the flashes. But flashes alone do not mean explosives. You would see more than flashes if an explosive large enough to cut steel was set off. You would see ejecta coming from the same place as the flash.

Failure to call for an investigation: The argument from silence

If a majority of the 503 firefighters on the scene that day heard what they felt were explosives, why haven't they been calling for an investigation? These are NYC firefighters. Not a group of people who lend themselves to fear. Surely, these people could band together and force an investigation. If the Jersey Girls could do it, why not our brave NYC fire department? Conspiracy theorists fail to explain this obvious flaw in their story, other than to suggest that they were suckered into believing they heard something other than explosives. How did "they" brainwash so many people? And why haven't the firefighters "snapped out of it" and reconsidered the conspiracy theorists' suggestions in the years after the attack? Conspiracy theorists believe that the NYC fire department would stay quiet after 343 of their brothers were murdered by someone other than those who our government said murdered them. Why wouldn't the New York Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) work on its members' behalf to expose this mass murder? They almost died that day. It could have been the surviving firefighters that died. Why wouldn't they try to get an investigation any way they could? These are firemen who almost rioted because the Mayor of NY wanted to cut down the number of firemen at ground zero recovering their fallen brothers.



"Our message has been delivered. If we come back here again, we'll come back with 5,000," Gorman said the protesters stood outside a gate at City Hall.¹⁴

I suggest that it's highly unlikely for this group of men and women to stay quiet on the murder of their brothers. The writer of the conspiracy story would have you believe these men and women are cowards who fear the government more than losing their own lives during the next government "Inside job". No, the writer doesn't come right out and say it but there are a great many things the writer doesn't say. I strongly disagree with the writer's suggestion.

William Rodriguez is a worker at the towers and someone who says he heard an explosion which came from the lower levels of the building.

William Rodriguez worked on the basement level of the north tower and was in the building when the first plane struck his building.

"We heard a loud **rumble**, then all of a sudden we heard **another rumble like someone moving a whole lot of furniture**," Rodriguez said. "And then the elevator opened and a man came into our office and all of his skin was off."¹⁵

Here, he is describing something very different than an explosion. The change in his story came after he became a media star and plaintiff.

I decided to see just how easy it is to do what conspiracy theorists do by taking quotes of an event out of context. Below is an example.

[Example video transcript:]

Government Train Wreck: How government covers up freight train accidents...

"The noise sounded like two freight trains going over a trestle right over your head; it was an ugly roar. My wife said the noise when the house went was like a giant pencil sharpener working."

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/1953beecher/storiesFJ.php>

[Did a freight train pass over their heads? Was there really a giant pencil sharpener over their heads?]

"While I was in my kitchen I heard this terrible roar coming," she said. "It sounded like a freight train coming right down my road here."

"It looks like it's been bombed. There's just a lot of destruction, a lot of debris," said Michael Bartz, a state emergency official. "

<http://archives.cnn.com/2002/WEATHER/09/02...nado/index.html>

[Was it a bomb? Did a real freight train go down their road?]

"It indeed sounded like a freight train roaring past us, and when it was gone, we came out to find things a mess."

<http://www.offenburger.com/farmarchive.asp?link=20040906>

It came with "the roar of forty freight trains."

<http://www.tornadochaser.com/UDALL/reports.htm>

"It sounded like a freight train".

<http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2954>

"Before I reached the bottom of the stairs, I heard the sound of a roaring freight train"

[enter image of NOAA weather map an hour before the tornado touches down.]

As you can see there was no tornado on that day according to NOAA.

So why is the government covering up train derailments?

[enter sinister music]

In 2003, Amtrak was going bankrupt. They couldn't afford to rebuild the homes of Americans after a derailment.

ETC.. ETC..

Conclusions

The pattern of omission, misinformation and misleading quote mining ironically continue within the "Truth Movement". Explosive sounds which could well be the sound of floors crashing into each other become evidence of explosives. Quotes in which firemen say the sounds were caused by the floors pancaking are set aside as unreliable, using misleading characterizations of the NIST study. The construction and contents – such as electrical equipment which could easily explain some of these sounds – are ignored. And, lastly, we are to believe that the brave firefighters in the New York City Fire Department are all cowards who fear government reprisal for speaking out about what they heard. Something the Jersey Girls and a janitor (William Rodriguez) had no problem doing.

I suspect that conspiracy theorists will use the fact that I don't address every quote as some kind of evidence for explosives in the towers. The reasonable reader will also realize that my not addressing every quote isn't evidence of explosives.

"I saw a flash flash flash [at] the lower level of the building. You know like when they demolish a building?"--Assistant Fire Commissioner Stephen Gregory

Now the WHOLE QUOTE without the taking out of context...

I know I was with an officer from Ladder 146, a Lieutenant Evangelista, who ultimately called me up a couple of days later just to find out how I was. We both for whatever reason -- again, I don't know how valid this is with everything that was going on at that particular point in time, but for some reason I thought that when I looked in the direction of the Trade Center before it came down, before No. 2 came down, that I saw low-level flashes. In my conversation with Lieutenant Evangelista, never mentioning this to him, he questioned me and asked me if I saw low-level flashes in front of the building, and I agreed with him because I thought -- **at that time I didn't know what it was. I mean, it could have been as a result of the building collapsing**, things exploding, but I saw a flash flash flash and then it looked like the building came down.

Q.: Was that on the lower level of the building or up where the fire was?

A: No, the lower level of the building. You know like when they demolish a building, how when they blow up a building, when it falls down? That's what I thought I saw. And I didn't broach the topic to him, but he asked me. He said I don't know if I'm crazy, but I just wanted to ask you because you were standing right next to me. He said did you see anything by the building? And I said what do you mean by see anything? He said did you see any flashes? I said, yes, well, I thought it was just me. He said no, I saw them, too.

I don't know if that means anything. I mean, I equate it to the building cowing down and pushing things down, it could have been electrical explosions, it could have been whatever.

http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/Gregory_Stephen.txt

"it was [like a] professional demolition where they set the charges on certain floors and then you hear 'Pop, pop, pop, pop, pop'."--Paramedic Daniel Rivera

"SO WE WERE PRETTY MUCH - MOST OF THE WORKERS WERE INSIDE THIS BUILDING. I LIKE SAID, I DON'T KNOW IF IT S FIVE WORLD TRADE CENTER OR FOUR WORLD TRADE CENTER. MOST OF THEM WERE IN THE BUILDING BECAUSE THE CHIEF OR THE CAPTAIN SAID IF YOU WANT YOU CAN STAY INSIDE THAT BUILDING. BUT I DIDN'T FEEL SAFE BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS A TERRORIST ATTACK SO I WAS SCARED. EVERY TIME YOU HEAR PLANE, EVERYONE WOULD RUN. SO I PRETTY MUCH STOOD AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

I WOULD SEE TRIAGE, BUT I WAS PRETTY MUCH IN BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS.

THEN THAT'S WHEN - I KEPT ON WALKING CLOSE TO THE SOUTH TOWER, AND **THAT'S WHEN THAT BUILDING COLLAPSED.**

Q: HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS COMING DOWN?

A: THAT NOISE. .IT WAS A NOISE.

Q: WHAT DID YOU HEAR? WHAT DID YOU SEE?

A: IT WAS A FRIGGING NOISE. AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS-DO YOU EVER SEE PROFESSIONAL DEMOLITION WHERE THEY SET THE CHARGES ON CERTAIN FLOORS AND THEN YOU HEAR "POP, POP, POP, POP, POP"? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT - BECAUSE I **THOUGHT IT WAS THAT WHEN I HEARD THAT FRIGGING NOISE, THAT'S WHEN I SAW THE BUILDING COMING DOWN.**

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/9110035.PDF

"There was what **appeared to be** at first an explosion. **It appeared** at the very top, simultaneously from all four sides, materials shot out horizontally. And then there seemed to be a momentary delay before you could see the beginning of the collapse." --Chief Frank Cruthers

There was what **appeared** to be at first an explosion. **It appeared** at the very top, simultaneously from all four sides

http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/Cruthers.txt

“ we heard explosions coming from building two, the south tower. It seemed like it took forever, but there were about ten explosions. . . . We then realized the building started to come down.” -- Firefighter Craig Carlsen

Note where they put the "..."

Now for the whole quote...

I guess about three minutes later you just heard explosions coming from building two, the south tower. It seemed like it took forever, but there were about ten explosions. **At the time I didn't realize what it was. We realized later after talking and finding out that it was the floors collapsing to where the plane had hit.**

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/9110505.PDF

MY BACK WAS TOWARDS THE BUILDING, TRYING TO PUSH EVERYBODY UP.

GRASSY HILL WAS THERE AND UP UNDERNEATH THAT OVERPASS, WHEN SOMEBODY JUST SIMPLY SHOUTED AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT WAS, "IT S BLOWING".

I HAD NO CLUE WHAT WAS GOING ON. I NEVER TURNED AROUND BECAUSE A SOUND CAME FROM SOMEWHERE THAT NEVER HEARD BEFORE. SOME PEOPLE COMPARED IT WITH AN AIRPLANE. IT WAS THE WORST SOUND OF ROLLING SOUND, NOT A THUNDER. I CAN T EXPLAIN IT, WHAT IT WAS. ALL I

KNOW IS -- AND A FORCE STARTED TO COME HIT ME IN MY BACK. I CANT EXPLAIN IT. YOU HAD TO BE THERE. ALL I KNOW IS -- HAD TO RUN BECAUSE I THOUGHT THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION.

...I WAS UNAWARE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. I THOUGHT

IT WAS JUST MAJOR EXPLOSION. I DIDN'T KNOW THE BUILDING WAS COLLAPSING

SOMEWHERE AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, THERE WAS THIS ORANGE AND RED FLASH COMING OUT. INITIALLY IT WAS JUST ONE FLASH. THEN THIS FLASH JUST KEPT POPPING ALL THE WAY AROUND THE BUILDING AND THAT BUILDING HAD STARTED TO EXPLODE. THE POPPING SOUND, AND WITH EACH POPPING SOUND IT WAS INITIALLY AN ORANGE AND THEN RED FLASH CAME OUT OF THE BUILDING AND THEN IT WOULD JUST GO ALL AROUND THE BUILDING ON BOTH SIDES AS FAR AS COULD SEE. THESE POPPING SOUNDS AND THE EXPLOSIONS WERE GETTING BIGGER GOING BOTH UP AND DOWN AND THEN ALL AROUND THE BUILDING.

SO HERE THESE EXPLOSIONS ARE GETTING BIGGER AND LOUDER AND BIGGER AND LOUDER AND I TOLD EVERYBODY IF THIS BUILDING TOTALLY EXPLODES, **STILL UNAWARE THAT THE OTHER BUILDING HAD COLLAPSED**, I M GOING IN THE WATER.

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/9110192.PDF

When I was giving her the oxygen, setting up the tank, **you could hear a loud rumble**. Somebody said run for your life. I turned to see who was yelling "run".

At that point I looked back and most of the people who were triaged in that area with the triage tags on them got up and ran. I took a quick glance at the building and while I didn't see it falling, I saw a large section of it blasting out, which led me to believe it was just an explosion. I thought it was a secondary device, but I knew that we had to go.

But one thing that did happen was an ambulance pulled up which was very clean. So I assumed that the vehicle had not been in the - **what I thought was an explosion at the time, but was the first collapse**.

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/9110172.PDF

A video is shown on just about every conspiracy web site which shows a few firemen discussing what they heard and saw.

fireman2: We made it outside, we made it about a block.
 fireman1: We made it at least 2 blocks.
 fireman2: 2 blocks.
 fireman1: and we started runnin'
 fireman2: poch-poch-poch-poch-poch-poch-poch
 fireman1: **Floor by floor it started poppin' out ...**
 fireman2: **It was as if as if** they had detonated, det...
 fireman1: yea detonated yea
 fireman2: **as if** they had planned to take down a building,
 boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom...

In the context of reading it on a conspiracy site, this may sound like damning evidence. They are saying "detonated" and "they had planned to take down a building". They even say "Boom" to describe the sound. But if you hear the other things they re saying, view their body language and consider the context outside the conspiracy theory setting, something else emerges. Before or after every description is "**As if**". "**As if** they had planned to take down a building". "**It was as if as if** they had detonated". They also use body language to show it was the sound of the floors crashing into one another.

boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom- (hand moves down)
 boom...

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- ¹ <http://www.debunking911.com/towers.htm>.
 - ² <http://www.firehouse.com/terrorist/911/magazine/gz/hayden.html>
 - ³ http://www.npri.org/issues/issues01/i_b0121101.htm
 - ⁴ <http://www.debunking911.com/fires.htm>
 - ⁵ <http://wtc.nist.gov/NISTNCSTAR1CollapseofTowers.pdf> E3 Summary of Findings Objectives 1- 3
 - ⁶ <http://www.debunking911.com/collapse.htm>
 - ⁷ <http://www.newsday.com/includes/fdny-9-11/pdf/9110288.pdf>
 - ⁸ <http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/item/1507/>
 - ⁹ http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/Gregory_Stephen.txt
 - ¹⁰ <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E0CE0DF1031F937A15754C0A964958260>
 - ¹¹ <http://www.fdnewyork.com/wtc.asp>
 - ¹² http://september11.ceenews.com/ar/electric_towering_security_2/index.htm
 - ¹³ http://september11.ceenews.com/ar/electric_broadway_electrical_supplys/
 - ¹⁴ http://server.firehouse.com/terrorist/1102_APcopsff.html
 - ¹⁵ <http://archives.cnn.com/2001/US/09/11/new.york.terror/>