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
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8610
Email: wtc@nist.gov
Fax: (301) 975-6122
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.