

Awarded Contracts for External Experts to Support the NIST World Trade Center (WTC) Disaster Investigation

Contract No.	Awarded to	Date Awarded
SB1341-03-W-0471	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	4/14/2003

WORLD TRADE CENTER (WTC) INVESTIGATION FIRST PERSON ACCOUNTS OF EGRESS

Under contract number SB1341-03-W-0471, a firm fixed price purchase order has been awarded to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) of Quincy, Massachusetts:

The NFPA is a nonprofit organization specifically chartered to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Part of their charter includes investigations of technically significant fire incidents and fire data analysis.

This project is to provide a data set that includes selected publicly available published first-person accounts of the WTC evacuation. This data set includes approximately 500 existing accounts collected by the NFPA and the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC) since September 11, 2001, along with a matrix of encoding variables that captures important incident details for each account. The NFPA will enhance this existing data set to include additional accounts to be supplied by NIST and additional incident details of interest to the investigation of the WTC evacuation on September 11, 2001.

The principal investigator from the NFPA is Dr. Rita Fahy. Dr. Fahy is Manager of Fire Data Bases and Systems for the NFPA. Active in fire analysis and research for a decade and a half, Dr. Fahy manages all databases and computer analysis programs. She has special expertise and interest in computer modeling, database and computer analysis techniques, human behavior with respect to fire, and socioeconomic factors in fire risk. She studied the evacuation of the WTC towers following the 1993 bombing incident.