



**NIST Response to the World Trade Center Disaster**

**Federal Building and Fire Safety Investigation  
of  
the World Trade Center Disaster**

**Public Comment Process  
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# Submission Process for Public Comments

- NIST released the draft WTC Towers report and 42 supporting draft reports on June 23, 2005 for public comment.
- Six week period for public comment; all comments due to NIST August 4, 2005.
- Comments encouraged on the WTC Towers Report but welcomed on all reports.
- NIST requested comments be specific in nature with recommendations for change.
- Comments were accepted via web site, e-mail, fax, and regular mail.

# Summary of Comments Received

Total number of submissions: 469

Number of Organizations Responding: 22

Number of Individuals Responding: 58

- Nearly all major building and fire safety organizations submitted comments: (e.g., ICC, NFPA, ASCE/SEI, SFPE, NCSEA, PCA, AIA, BOMA, ACI, NASFM, AFSC, NCSBCS, AMCBO, CRSI, UL, ASTM, SPI, NFSA, NRMCA)

# Appreciation

- NIST appreciates the desire of organizations and individuals to state their positions on the draft WTC Reports.
- NIST was gratified by the industry interest in the WTC Investigation and our findings and recommendations and by the quality and quantity of the comments received.
- Many of the pros and cons of issues raised in the comments had been debated by the NIST team and already considered in the findings and recommendations contained in the draft reports.
- The comments have resulted in a wealth of information and insight that will guide not only follow-on work by NIST, but also the follow-on work of the standards and codes organizations, industry organizations, and academic researchers.

# Process for Consideration of Comments

- All comments received were organized into two bound volumes and distributed to the WTC Investigation team for review and consideration.
- Project leaders from the WTC Investigation team reviewed all of the comments received and made extensive clarifications and editorial changes based on the comments received.
- NIST is producing the final reports incorporating the clarifications and editorial changes.
- The final reports on the WTC towers will be posted in late September or early October 2005 on the NIST web site:  
<http://wtc.nist.gov>
- NIST will post all of the public comments received on the web site at the same time.

# Selected Statements on WTC Investigation

## International Code Council

“The ICC would like to commend NIST and its subcontractors on the quality and thoroughness of its reports. The level of effort, complexity of issues, organization and presentation, thoroughness and professionalism, associated with and exhibited by the reports is commendable and well represents to others in the U.S. and the world the technical and management capabilities and expertise of the U.S. public and private sectors.”

## National Fire Protection Association

“The level of effort, study, analysis, and examination of both the known, factual events of September 11, 2001 as well as the circumstances that NIST had to develop a hypothesis for because of a lack of visual or physical evidence is notable and unprecedented.”

*“...The quality, quantity, and depth of information provided in the draft report are indicative of the resources, both human and financial, that NIST has committed to this effort. By this example, NIST has also set a high standard of performance for the future of such building loss investigations. The WTC Study is unprecedented and shows the scientific resources and talent that NIST has at its disposal.”*

# Selected Statements on WTC Investigation (2)

## American Institute of Architects

“The AIA cannot overstate the accomplishments of the NIST investigating team and the substantial body of information they gathered and analyzed in response to one of the worst catastrophes in American history. The results are a definitive record of the largest and most devastating building disasters ever.”

## National Association of State Fire Marshals

“In general, NASFM regards the National Construction Safety Team’s (NCST) final report as an exceptionally thorough, balanced and actionable work, which now must serve as a blueprint for those with the legal authority and moral obligation to ensure that all buildings are constructed in ways that do not unnecessarily or unfairly imperil civilians or responders.”