

AMERICA'S DAY OF  
TERROR

# TIMELINE

Tuesday 11 September 2001

▶ THE FOUR HIJACKS ▶ TRADE CENTER DISASTER ▶ IN PICTURES ▶ TWIN TOWERS TENANTS ▼ **TIMELINE** ▶ EYEWITNESS

## 0838 Eastern Daylight Time

The Federal Aviation Administration alerted NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command: the military organisation which monitors the skies over the United States and Canada] that American Airlines Flight 11 had been hijacked.

1238 GMT AUDIO/VIDEO

## 0846

At the height of New York's morning rush hour American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

1253 GMT

Video footage of the first crash 

The BBC's Stephen Evans was in the Trade Center when the first explosion happened 

## 0853

F-15 fighters scrambled to deal with American Airlines Flight 11 are airborne, having taken off from Otis Air National Guard Base in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

1246 GMT

## 0903

News cameras trained on the burning tower captured the horrifying view of another passenger jet, United Airlines Flight 175, crashing into the south tower of the Trade Center causing a devastating explosion. It had left Boston for Los Angeles carrying 65 passengers and crew. It became clear that the catastrophe was not an accident.

1303 GMT

The second crash was seen live on TV 

Eyewitness Ash Rajan described the moments when the towers were hit 

At the same time, FAA notified NORAD that United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles had also been hijacked.

## 0910

In Florida President Bush was reading to children in a classroom when his chief of staff, Andrew Card, whispered news of the attacks into his ear.

1310 GMT

## 0920

The FBI announced that it was investigating reports of planes being hijacked.

1320 GMT

## 0929

Rescue workers and firefighters rushed to the foot of the World Trade Center as the upper floors blazed. On an ordinary day, up to 50,000 people would be working in the Trade Center.

1329 GMT

Kenneth Jahanaman, a janitor at the World Trade Center, describes the chaos 

Eyewitnesses saw people jumping from the towers 

## 0930

A grim-faced President Bush declared: "We have had a national tragedy. Two aeroplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an

1330 GMT

President Bush makes an emergency statement 

apparent terrorist attack on our country."

**0937**

American Airlines Flight 77, carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington. The nerve centre of the US military burst into flames and a section of the five-sided structure collapsed. F-16 fighters were still 100 miles away when the plane crashed. President Bush authorised fighters to shoot down any other aircraft that threatened targets in Washington.

**1337  
GMT**

The BBC's Stephen Cviic described the reaction in Washington 🇺🇸

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**0945**

The White House and The Capitol were evacuated amid further threats.

**1345  
GMT**

The BBC's Rob Watson reported on the day in Washington 🇺🇸

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**0950**

All airports across the US were shut down and all commercial flights grounded.

**1350  
GMT**

**0957**

Passengers on United Flight 93 over Pennsylvania began a revolt. A hijacker at the controls attempted to roll the plane and pitch it up and down, in order to disrupt the assault. At 1002, the hijackers were about to be overcome. One of them can be heard on the cockpit voice recorder shouting to his co-hijacker: "Pull it down! Pull it down!"

**1357  
GMT**

**0959**

The south tower of the World Trade Center suddenly collapsed sending a massive pall of smoke across Manhattan. Many emergency workers and firefighters were crushed, as well all those who could not get out of the tower.

**1403  
GMT**

The first tower collapses 🇺🇸

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**1003**

United Airlines Flight 93 crashed 80 miles (128 km) south east of Pittsburgh. It had been bound for San Francisco from Newark, New Jersey.

**1405  
GMT**

Relatives of passenger Mark Bingham said he called them on his mobile phone just before the crash 🇺🇸

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**1028**

The north tower of the World Trade Center collapsed as well, adding to the devastation and loss of life. The southern part of Manhattan Island was covered in a thick layer of debris and dust

**1429  
GMT**

**1239**

President Bush made a second statement, in which he vowed to hunt down and punish those responsible.

**1629  
GMT**

**1320**

President Bush left Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana and flew to Omutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

**1720  
GMT**

**1344** The Pentagon deployed five battleships and two aircraft carriers along the east coast of the US to provide upgraded air defence for the New York and Washington areas. **1744 GMT**

**1350** Washington DC Mayor Anthony Williams declared a state of emergency in the US federal capital. **1750 GMT**

**1448** New York's mayor Rudy Giuliani said the eventual death toll from Tuesday's attack may be "more than any of us can bear". **1848 GMT**

**1630** President Bush left Offutt Air Force Base aboard Air Force One to return to the White House in Washington. **2030 GMT**

**1720** Number 7, World Trade Center, a 47 storey building adjacent to the ruins of the twin towers, collapsed. **2120 GMT**

**2030** President Bush addressed the nation on TV and hinted at a strong US response against the "terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbour them". **0030 GMT**

President Bush "Today our fellow citizens, our freedom, our way of life came under attack"

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The BBC's James Robbins looks back over America's darkest day

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