

Molten Metal

Workers Reported Molten Metal in Ground Zero Rubble

Reports of molten metal in the foundations of the three World Trade Center skyscrapers are frequently noted in literature of proponents of theories that the buildings were destroyed through controlled demolition. The first such report to be widely publicized was one by *American Free Press* reporter Christopher Bollyn citing principals of two of the companies contracted to clean up Ground Zero. The president of Tully Construction of Flushing, NY, said he saw pools of "literally molten steel" at Ground Zero. Bollyn also cites Mark Loizeaux, president of Controlled Demolition Inc. (CDI) of Phoenix, MD, as having seen molten steel in the bottoms of elevator shafts "three, four, and five weeks" after the attack.

Although reports of molten steel are consistent with the [persistent heat](#) at Ground Zero in the months following the attack, we find the *American Free Press* report suspect for two reasons. First, Tully Construction was one of [four companies awarded contracts](#) by New York City's Department of Design and Construction to dispose of the rubble at Ground Zero, and CDI was subcontracted by Tully and was instrumental in devising a plan to recycle the steel. The involvement of Steve Tully and Mark Loizeaux in the destruction of the evidence of the unprecedented collapses would seem to disqualify them as objective reporters of evidence. Interestingly, CDI was also hired to bury the rubble of the Murrah Building in the wake of the Oklahoma City Bombing. That Loizeaux stood trial on charges of illegal campaign contributions casts further doubt on his credibility. ¹

A second reason to doubt this molten steel report is the fact that it has been used by Bollyn and others to support the dubious theory that the collapses were caused by [bombs in the Towers' basements](#).

Corroborating Reports

There are reports of molten steel beyond those cited by *American Free Press*. Most of these have come to light as a result of a [research paper](#) by Professor Steven E Jones, which has stimulated interest in the subject of molten steel at Ground Zero. *

A report by *Waste Age* describes New York Sanitation Department workers moving "everything from molten steel beams to human remains." ²

A report on the *Government Computer News* website quotes Greg Fuchek, vice president of sales for LinksPoint Inc. as stating:

In the first few weeks, sometimes when a worker would pull a steel beam from the wreckage, the end of the beam would be dripping molten steel ³

A *Messenger-Inquirer* report recounts the experiences of Bronx firefighter "Toolie" O'Toole, who stated that some of the beams lifted from deep within the catacombs of Ground Zero by

Evidence

World Trade Center

destroyed evidence

- aircraft
- structural steel

missing evidence

- bodies
- building contents
 - gold
 - asbestos

surviving evidence

- photographs
 - jet impacts
 - fires
 - destruction
 - dust clouds
 - Building 7
 - WTC 3, 4, 5, 6
 - Ground Zero
 - surroundings
 - construction

videos

timelines

- seismic records
- persisting heat

molten iron

forensic metallurgy

- orange spout
- dust analysis

- thermitic residues
- active thermitics

gas emissions

eyewitness accounts

- oral histories
- firefighter audiotape
- demolition admission
- tower blueprints
 - structural
 - electrical

Pentagon

missing evidence

- Pentagon footage

surviving evidence

- photographs
- CCTV video
- eyewitness accounts
 - Eric Bart compilation
 - anonymous compilation
 - large jetliner
 - moment of impact
 - explosives
 - other aircraft
 - approach details

flights

destroyed evidence

missing evidence

- airport video
- phone calls
 - call detail
 - cell phone calls
- black boxes
 - flight data
 - voice data
- air controllers
- bodies

surviving evidence

- passenger lists
- photographs
- eyewitness accounts
- Flight 93 transcript

cranes were "dripping from the molten steel."⁴

A transcription of an audio interview of Ground Zero chaplain Herb Trimpe contains the following passage:

When I was there, of course, the remnants of the towers were still standing. It looked like an enormous junkyard. A scrap metal yard, very similar to that. Except this was still burning. There was still fire. On the cold days, even in January, there was a noticeable difference between the temperature in the middle of the site than there was when you walked two blocks over on Broadway. You could actually feel the heat.

It took me a long time to realize it and I found myself actually one day wanting to get back. Why? Because I felt more comfortable. I realized it was actually warmer on site. The fires burned, up to 2,000 degrees, underground for quite a while before they actually got down to those areas and they cooled off.

I talked to many contractors and they said they actually saw molten metal trapped, beams had just totally had been melted because of the heat. So this was the kind of heat that was going on when those airplanes hit the upper floors. It was just demolishing heat.⁵

A report in the *Johns Hopkins Public Health Magazine* about recovery work in late October quotes Alison Geyh, Ph.D., as stating:

Fires are still actively burning and the smoke is very intense. In some pockets now being uncovered, they are finding molten steel.⁶

A publication by the National Environmental Health Association quotes Ron Burger, a public health advisor at the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who arrived at Ground Zero on the evening of September 12th. Burger stated:

Feeling the heat, seeing the molten steel, the layers upon layers of ash, like lava, it reminded me of Mt. St. Helen's and the thousands who fled that disaster.⁷

An article in *The Newsletter of the Structural Engineers Association of Utah* describing a speaking appearance by Leslie Robertson (structural engineer responsible for the design of the World Trade Center) contains this passage:

As of 21 days after the attack, the fires were still burning and molten steel was still running.⁸

A member of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Air Wing was at Ground Zero from September 22 to October 6. He kept a journal on which an article containing the following passage is based.

Smoke constantly poured from the peaks. One fireman told us that there was still molten steel at the heart of the towers' remains. Firemen sprayed water to cool the debris down but the heat remained intense enough at the surface to melt their boots.⁹

The book *American Ground*, which contains detailed descriptions of conditions at Ground Zero, contains this passage:

... or, in the early days, the streams of molten metal that leaked from the hot cores and flowed down broken walls inside the foundation hole.¹⁰

A review of of the documentary *Collateral Damage* in the *New York Post* describes firemen at Ground Zero recalling "heat so intense they encountered rivers of molten steel." [11](#)



This construction photograph shows the foundation of South Tower in the foreground, with the foundation of the North Tower in the left background. The foundations were seven stories deep.

* Most of the press reports compiled here were gathered by other researchers, including Matthew Everett, the author of [Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and 9/11: A Scandal Beyond What Has Been Seen Before](#); David Ray Griffin; and the author of posts such as [this](#) on [georgewashington.blogspot.com](#).

References

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