

America Attacked

On the 11th Of September, 2001, America was attacked by a group of terrorists, who are part of the organisation calling themselves Al-Qaeda, hijacking four planes and crashing them into known American landmarks - two in New York City and one in Washington. The fourth crash landed in Pennsylvania.

At 8:46 am, the first plane, a passenger, Boeing 767, hit the North Tower between the 97th and 100th floors. Initially, it was believed that it was an accident; however, 18 minutes later, at 9:03 am the South Tower was hit by a second plane. It was at this time it became apparent that the United States was under attack.

There were four planes hijacked by 19 terrorists who were spread out over the four planes. The first two hit the Twin Towers in New York City, one hit the Pentagon in Washington DC, (where 265 people died in the impact), with the final plane, United Flight 93, not reaching its target due to the passengers onboard taking control of the plane and attempting to land away from potential civilian casualties. They crashed in Pennsylvania with no loss of any of the local's lives, unfortunately the lives of the 44 people that were on board were lost.

The most loss of life was seen at the Twin Towers in New York City where it has been reported that 365 firefighters, 77 police officers, 55 military officers, and over 2000 civilians died in the initial explosion, in the collapse of the towers or due to injuries sustained during the evacuation. This is only the initial death toll which is expected to rise as the recovery effort continues.

This day has been like no other. Firefighter Harris said: "It is a tragedy. This day is one of the biggest days, in our history. Many lives have been lost, from the attack on the Pentagon to the crash in Pennsylvania to the Twin Towers collapsing. However, this day gives us new lessons to learn, new challenges to overcome. Every lost life will serve as our fuel to learn and be better tomorrow." It has been reported that there has been a significant volunteer response to the event with people having to be turned away due to the instability of the site; however, police and fire services will be in contact in the coming days.