

U.S. ATTACKED

Attack paralyzes Wall St.

► Trading halts. One local brokerage closes for day.

Staff and news service reports

NEW YORK — The U.S. financial markets came to a halt Tuesday after two separate planes crashed into the World Trade Center and similar assaults occurred in Washington.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said all exchanges had decided to close. The announcement followed a suspension of trading on the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Stock Market. The American Stock Exchange had already decided to close for the day.

"As a safety precaution while the tragic events of today are sorted out, the securities markets have decided not to open for trading today," SEC chairman Harvey Pitt said in a statement. "We strongly support that decision."

It was unclear when trading would resume. Many of the nation's investment firms have at least some of their operations in the World Trade Center or surrounding buildings, possibly limiting their ability to restart quickly. And the New York Mercantile Exchange, where energy futures are traded, is located in the nearby World Financial Center.

Brokers in Syracuse were busy answering calls from investors this morning.

Boston-based Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter were among the companies with offices in the center and its area. Local brokers said they know people employed there.

Other markets around the world remained open as of 11 a.m.

Jeanne Case, managing director of the Syracuse complex of Merrill Lynch, said that the Syracuse complex offices including Binghamton and Ithaca received notice from Boston headquarters that offices around the Northeast would be closing for the day.

Paralysis and fear gripped the New York financial district.

Many companies sent their employees home for the day, putting thousands of New Yorkers into the streets after public transportation was shut down for fear of more attacks.

"The two explosions were incredible and at the point of explosions all you could see outside were personal belongings and office supplies raining outside," said Bob Rendine, an American Stock Exchange spokesman, whose office is down the block from the NYSE. "We're staying here. We think it's safer to stay inside than go outside at this point."

The Associated Press and staff writer Dee Klees contributed to this story.



AN AIRCRAFT, at right, is seen as it is about to crash into the World Trade Center in New York City today. The craft was the second to hit the buildings, which later collapsed.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world. It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list."

"My mother is going crazy. I just hope (my brother's) alright. He's my work-out partner. He's my hangout partner. I'm just in shock now." — Edwin Cruz, 34, whose brother, Richard, works in the World Trade Center.

"Today we've had a national tragedy."
— President Bush, from Sarasota, Fla.

"I heard a 'boom.' People were jumping off the building everywhere. They were just jumping."

— Serena Mays, a construction worker on the Williamsburg Bridge, which leads into Manhattan from Brooklyn

"Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone. It's like a war zone. There are many injured."

— Mike Smith, a New York fire marshal.

About the World Trade Center

- Center included seven buildings, including the twin 110-floor towers that were the world's second tallest buildings.
- 50,000 people worked in the two towers.
- First buildings opened in 1970; towers and plaza not completed until 1976. Last building completed in 1988.
- The towers were 1,350 feet tall. Each had 21,800 windows, 104 elevators, and an acre of rentable space per floor.
- Center had 10 million square feet of office space.
- Dedicated in 1973, the center is owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It was home to commodity exchanges, two major investment firms, banks, law firms, a hotel and an underground shopping mall and subway stop.



Attack on the U.S.

- American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston hijacked, then crashes into World Trade Center around 8:45 a.m. today.
 - Second aircraft crashes into the other tower of the World Trade Center about 20 minutes later. Both towers later collapse.
 - Third aircraft crashes at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. shortly before 10 a.m.
 - Boeing 767 crashes north of Pittsburgh after 10 a.m., according to unconfirmed reports.
- Sources: News reports
Syracuse Newspapers

Local primaries cancelled

By Erik Kriss
Albany Bureau

Albany — The Onondaga County Board of Elections announced today the governor's office had cancelled primaries scheduled for today.

State legislative employees at the state Capitol were being sent home late this morning in the wake of apparent coordinated terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington.

Gov. George Pataki closed all "non-emergency related" state government offices in New York City. It remained unclear whether Pataki's state Capitol and other non-legislative offices in the Capitol would be evacuated today.

Pataki press secretary Joseph Conway said the governor was on his way to New York City when airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center.

Conway said Pataki was helping to coordinate the state's response to the incident late this morning, and he said the governor's New York City office remained open.

"Today's horrific incident at the World Trade Center — which appears to be part of a coordinated terrorist attack — is a tragedy of unspeakable proportions and a crime against all Americans and all decent people around the world," Pataki said in a statement Conway delivered to reporters at the Capitol, before officials there evacuated the building.

"I have been in contact with President Bush and (New York City) Mayor (Rudolph) Giuliani to ensure that the appropriate emergency response is as effective and well-coordinated as possible," Pataki added. "As a precautionary measure, we have closed all non-emergency related state government offices in New York City."

State legislature offices in the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building, located across the street, were being closed and legislative employees were being sent home, officials said. The Senate canceled its scheduled session for Wednesday.

Legislature officials said a privately owned building at 250 Broadway in lower Manhattan, in which numerous lawmakers have offices, was evacuated. Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, R-Brunswick, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, D-Manhattan, and the legislature's redistricting and reapportionment operation all have offices in the evacuated building.

Planes crash into World Trade Center and Pentagon

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a bookstore on the World Trade Center's first floor when the first explosion rocked the building.

"The plane was coming in low and ... it looked like it hit at a slight angle," said Sean Murtagh, a CNN vice president, the network reported.

In 1945, an Army Air Corps B-25, a twin-engine bomber, crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building in dense fog.

In Florida, Bush was reading to children in a classroom at 9:05 a.m. when his chief of staff, Andrew Card, whispered into his ear. The president briefly turned somber before he resumed reading. He addressed the tragedy about a half-hour later.

"Terrorism against our nation will not stand," vowed President Bush. He spoke moments after two planes had flown directly into the twin World Trade Center towers in New York.

"This shows what an uncontrollable world we live in. This is crazy, wild and crazy," said Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., as the disruptions hit Washington within an hour after two planes flew directly into the World Trade Center towers in New York.

Bush termed the disaster in New York "an apparent terrorist attack on our country." He said he would return immediately to Washington.

In Washington, a senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the FBI suspects the

events in New York and Washington were part of an organized terrorist campaign.

Each moment seemed to bring fresh evidence of that:

"It's just just sick. It just shows how vulnerable we really are. It kind of makes you want to go home and spend time with your family. It puts everything in perspective."

— Keith Meyers, 39, in Columbus, Ohio

■ A car bomb exploded outside the State Department, senior law enforcement officials said.

■ A loud explosion was reported in the vicinity of the Capitol.

■ The departments of Justice, State, Treasury and Defense were among those ordered evacuated, as were the Capitol and the White House. In a remarkable scene, security guards brandishing automatic weapons could be seen outside the White House.

■ The FAA ordered the entire nationwide air traffic system shut down.

A senior U.S. intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, "We don't know who's doing it. Clearly, it's terrorism related, a carefully coordinated attack. It's not the work of an unsophisticated enemy. It's too soon to say who."

Paul Begala, a Democratic consultant, said he witnessed an explosion near the Pentagon.

"It was a huge fireball, a huge, orange fireball," Begala said in an interview on his cell phone.

He said another witness told him a helicopter exploded. AP reporter Dave

Winslow also saw the crash. He said, "I saw the tail of a large airliner. ... It plowed right into the Pentagon."

Gen. Richard Myers, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that prior to the crash into the Pentagon, military officials had been notified that another hijacked plane had been heading from the New York area to Washington. He said he assumed that hijacked plane was the one that hit the Pentagon, though he couldn't be sure.

Meanwhile, one of two planes that crashed into the World Trade Center was hijacked after takeoff from Boston, a U.S. official said, citing a transmission from the plane.

The second plane may have flown out of Newark, N.J., the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Asked if there was any possibility the crashes were anything other than deliberate, the official said it appeared not to be an accident, the official said.

Cameras catch crash

A chaotic scene of devastation unfolded on national television today with

cameras catching a plane crashing into the World Trade Center and the subsequent collapse of both of the towers.

Television networks began live coverage of a morning of terrorism at the time the first plane hit the New York City landmark. With cameras trained on the smoking skyscraper, television caught the second plane crashing into the other tower, footage replayed several times.

As the terror spread, CNN showed a split-screen view of the smoking World Trade Center and also the Pentagon, where smoke billowed from another plane crash.

Reports spread as fast as television could detail them — planes grounded across the country, the White House evacuated, planes unaccounted for — while commentators tried to keep calm.

"This is the most serious attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor," said NBC's Tom Brokaw.

A producer from CNN, Rose Arce, reported people jumping from the World Trade Center and described the chaos gripping lower Manhattan.

Cameras then caught the collapse of both of the twin towers, showing white smoke billowing throughout the streets of lower Manhattan. A shaken Ashleigh Banfield reporting on MSNBC described debris showering around.

"I've never seen anything like this," a breathless and sobbing Banfield said. "This whole place looks like a war zone. When the cloud came out I could feel the force of it."

Fox News Channel ran a continuous crawl of news bulletins summarizing the series of events.

C-SPAN took phone calls from shaken citizens. One caller from California said: "This is a sign to America: We think we are the strongest country and they hit us; they knew where to hit us."

Other television networks suspended normal programming. The ESPN sports networks showed ABC News reports, VH1 showed CBS News programming, TNT showed CNN coverage. News networks dispensed with commercials for continuous coverage.

The shopping networks QVC and ShopNBC network went dark, saying the tragedy had forced them to suspend programming.

"We share with our customers and employees, our sadness as well as our thoughts and prayers," ShopNBC said in a message.