

TIMELINE FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

- 12:30 a.m. In Westfield, New Jersey, Roselle wakes Michael, shaking in fear due to an approaching thunderstorm.
- 5:00 a.m. Michael Hingson wakes to his alarm, gets up, dresses, eats breakfast, and prepares for work.
- 5:45 a.m. Terrorist leader Mohamed Atta and associate Abdulaziz al-Omari pass through security in Portland, Maine, preparing to board a flight to Boston.
- 6:00 a.m. Primary Day election polls open in New York. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is out, due to term limits. Charlie, the owner of Happy Fox Taxi, picks up Roselle and Mike for a ten-minute ride to the New Jersey Transit station.

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- 6:48 a.m. The 6:18 train finally arrives in station after several announced delays.
- 7:15 a.m. Michael and Roselle arrive in Newark and transfer to a PATH train for the World Trade Center.
- 7:43 a.m. Michael and Roselle arrive at the World Trade Center station and walk through the underground parking lot on the fourth sublevel to an elevator that takes them to the lobby of Tower 1, the north building. Michael's security card is scanned by security, and they proceed to the express elevator.
- 7:50 a.m. Michael unlocks the door to the Quantum, Inc. suite on the 78th floor of the North Tower. Minutes later, David Frank and six other people arrive for the sales training presentations. One of the guests goes back downstairs to greet others expected to arrive. Remaining in the office are Michael, Roselle, David Frank, and five other people.
- 8:35 a.m. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sends a message to NORAD: American Flight 11 out of Boston has been hijacked.
- 8:46 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC 1), cutting through floors 93–99.
- 8:47 a.m. Michael calls his wife, Karen, to tell her there's been an explosion.
- 8:50 a.m. Michael, Roselle, and David enter Stairwell B.

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- 8:55 a.m. The first burn victim passes Michael in the stairwell. Five minutes later, another burn victim passes by.
- 9:03 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC 2). Inside the stairwell, Michael and others hear nothing of the explosion.
- 9:08 a.m. Someone passes water bottles up the stairs.
- 9:10 a.m. A column of firefighters passes by Michael and the group, beginning at the 30th floor. Mike speaks to the first firefighter. The FAA closes New York City airports.
- 9:21 a.m. All bridges and tunnels in New York are closed by the Port Authority.
- 9:26 a.m. All nonmilitary flights are grounded in the United States, orders of the Federal Aviation Administration.
- 9:30 a.m. President Bush, speaking from Sarasota, Florida, says the United States has suffered an “apparent terrorist attack.”
- 9:35 a.m. Michael, Roselle, and David reach the first floor and run through the fire sprinkler waterfall to come out in the lobby.
- 9:37 a.m. American Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C.
- 9:45 a.m. Michael and Roselle leave the World Trade Center and step outside. The White House evacuates.
- 9:59 a.m. The South Tower, Tower 2, collapses.

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- 10:01 a.m. Michael and Roselle find an entrance to the Fulton Street Subway Station and take refuge inside. A portion of the Pentagon collapses.
- 10:06 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.
- 10:17 a.m. Michael and Roselle leave the station, evacuated by a police officer, and go back up to street level.
- 10:24 a.m. The FAA reports all inbound transatlantic aircraft are being diverted to Canada.
- 10:29 a.m. The North Tower, Tower 1, collapses.
- 10:32 a.m. Michael gets through to Karen on his cell phone and tells her that he is alive and has made it out of the World Trade Center.
- 10:58 a.m. Michael, Roselle, and David rest on a bench at a small plaza near Broadway and Canal Street.
- 11:00 a.m. Michael listens to his radio and hears Mayor Giuliani telling everyone to remain calm. The mayor orders lower Manhattan evacuated to points north of Canal Street, and he tells everyone else to stay home.
- 11:30 a.m. Michael, Roselle, and David stop at a small Vietnamese restaurant to rest. Michael has a bowl of soup. Military jets race by.
- 12:02 p.m. Michael's boss, Rich Dickson, sends an e-mail to his staff: "Michael just was able to get through to me by cell phone."

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He and David Frank are together and are being evacuated even further from the area. Both are a bit dirty and tired but OK. Both got out just before our tower collapsed. . . . We really thought we lost both Mike and David as we watched our tower crash to the ground.”

- 12:45 p.m. Michael, Roselle, and David walk toward Nina Resnick's apartment. They catch a ride with some friendly strangers.
- 1:15 p.m. Nina is out shopping for groceries, so Michael, Roselle, and David wait in the lobby of her apartment building.
- 1:44 p.m. Five warships and two aircraft carriers leave Norfolk, Virginia, to protect the East Coast from further attack.
- 1:50 p.m. Nina arrives, loaded down with grocery bags. The trio and Roselle go upstairs and clean up, talk, listen to the news, eat, and write notes on the day's events.
- 2:49 p.m. Mayor Giuliani announces that subway and bus service will be partially restored.
- 4:00 p.m. Karen leaves a message on Michael's cell that a friend has made it home to New Jersey from Manhattan by train. Michael calls her back, then decides to try for home. CNN reports that U.S. officials have evidence that Saudi militant Osama bin Laden is involved in the attacks. (Osama bin Laden, who later claimed direct responsibility for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, was shot and killed May 2, 2011 in Pakistan by U.S. Navy Seals in a covert operation.)

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- 4:30 p.m. Michael, Roselle, and David thank Nina for her help and leave the apartment building. A few blocks away they board a bus to Sixth and Thirty-third, near Penn Station. All transportation is free. President Bush, who has been transported from Florida to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, boards Air Force One to return to Washington, D.C.
- 5:21 p.m. Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses.
- 5:30 p.m. Michael and David say a quick, emotional good-bye. David heads to a friend's place on the Upper East Side.
- 6:05 p.m. Michael boards a train to Newark, New Jersey. People on the train see the dust on Michael and question him about his experiences.
- 6:10 p.m. Mayor Giuliani asks New Yorkers to stay home on Wednesday.
- 6:37 p.m. Michael and Roselle arrive at the Newark station and transfer to a Westfield, New Jersey, train on track 5. Michael calls Karen to tell her he has boarded the Westfield train, because she is standing by to pick him up if the Westfield train had not been running. Karen and Tom leave to pick up Michael and Roselle. Outside, they can see the smoke from the World Trade Center, 20 miles away.
- 7:02 p.m. Michael and Roselle arrive at the Westfield station. As they leave the station, Karen pulls up in the family van with her friend Tom Painter at the wheel.

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- 7:15 p.m. Michael, Karen, Tom, and Roselle arrive home. Mike unharnesses Roselle and tries to brush her coat, but she is more interested in playing with Linnie, Michael's retired guide dog. Michael showers while Karen orders Chinese takeout. Michael, Karen, and Tom enjoy a quiet meal and watch TV.
- 8:30 p.m. President George W. Bush makes a television statement, saying, "Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil." He adds, "These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve." Michael's friends and family begin to call. Michael is tired but talks to as many as he can.
- 10:49 p.m. Reports emerge that there were three to five hijackers on each plane, armed only with crude knives.
- 11:00 p.m. At Karen's urging, Michael debriefs through the day's events with K. Cherie Jones, a friend and pastor in Atascadero, California.
- 12:00 a.m. Michael and Roselle go to bed and sleep peacefully. No storms.*

* Timeline compiled from *The 9/11 Commission Report*, along with notes by Michael Hingson.

RESOURCES FOR BLINDNESS

National Federation of the Blind

From the Web site: “The National Federation of the Blind is not an organization speaking for the blind—it is the blind speaking for themselves.”

200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-659-9314
E-mail: nfb@nfb.org
Web: <http://www.nfb.org>

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American Foundation for the Blind

Nonprofit organization enabling blind or visually impaired people to achieve equality and access.

2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1102

New York, NY 10121

800-232-5463

E-mail: afbinfo@afb.net

Web: <http://www.afb.org>

American Printing House for the Blind

The world's largest provider of accessible educational and daily living products with over 150 years of service.

1839 Frankfort Avenue

Louisville, KY 40206

800-223-1839

E-mail: info@aph.org

Web: <http://www.aph.org/>

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

1703 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 440

Alexandria, VA 22311

877-492-2708

Web: <http://www.aerbvi.org>

Braille Institute

Nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to a fulfilling life caused by blindness and severe sight loss.

741 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029
800-272-4553
E-mail: la@brailleinstitute.org
Web: <http://www.brailleinstitute.org>

Braille Monitor: Voice of the Nation's Blind

A monthly magazine of the National Federation of the Blind. Available in large print, Braille, audiocassette, or by e-mail. Back issues are available online through the online directory.

510-659-9314, ext. 2344
E-mail: nfb@nfb.org
Web: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Braille_Monitor.asp

Daisy Consortium

International association promoting the DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) standard for talking books.

Grubenstrasse 12
8045 Zurich, Switzerland
Web: <http://www.daisy.org>

RESOURCES FOR BLINDNESS

Google's accessible web search for the visually impaired

Web: <http://labs.google.com/accessible>

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Nonprofit, charitable organization with a mission to provide guide dogs and training in their use to visually impaired people throughout the United States and Canada.

P.O. Box 151200

San Rafael, CA 94915

800-295-4050

E-mail: information@guidedogs.com

Web: <http://www.guidedogs.com>

K-NFB Reader: Reading Technology from Kurzweil Technologies

Software packages that run on a multifunction cell phone to enable the user to read printed material by way of scanner and digitized voice technology.

415-827-4084

E-mail: info@michaelhingson.com

Web: <http://knfbreader.michaelhingson.com/>

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress

Free program that loans recorded and Braille books and magazines, music scores in Braille and large print, and specially designed playback equipment to residents of the United States who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of visual or physical impairment.

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542
1-888-NLS-READ
E-mail: nls@loc.gov
Web: <http://www.loc.gov/nls>

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

Works with leading publishers and technology innovators to bring accessible materials to individuals with visual and learning disabilities.

20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
800-221-4792
E-mail: custserv@rfd.org
Web: <http://www.rfd.org/alt>