



The U.S. and the World:
SS.7.CG.4.4
September 11, 2001
READING #5

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.4.4 Benchmark Clarification 5: Students will explain the ways in which first responders (including but not limited to, police officers, firefighters, and paramedics) and civilians were involved in the rescue and recovery of victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

One of the most important parts of being a good citizen is understanding the **common good**. The common good involves putting aside your own individual needs and wants in order to help others and the broader community. In the immediate aftermath of the events of September 11th, 2001, **first responders** and regular citizens both focused on that common good.

When the first plane crashed into the **North Tower**, police, firefighters, and paramedics were on the scene to try and evacuate the building, support the injured, and battle the raging fire that was starting to engulf the tower. Many of these first responders and civilians rushed into the North Tower in an effort to find a way to rescue those trapped by the fire and structural damage. Office workers in the building helped guide others to the exits and supported people as they worked to escape. Even as a second plane crashed into the **South Tower**, these heroic citizens worked to rescue people trapped in each building. The same thing can be said of the civilians and soldiers who worked to rescue the survivors and victims after a plane crashed into the Pentagon just outside Washington, DC.

As the **Twin Towers** burned, men and women, firefighters, police officers, paramedics, office workers, and regular civilians with or without training, stayed to try to make a difference and save as many lives as they could. Unfortunately, when the South and North Towers collapsed, many of these first responders and civilians lost their lives while trying to save others.

After the collapse of the Twin Towers, volunteer first responders and civilians with medical training or rescue experience returned to the destroyed buildings. Together, they worked for weeks to try and rescue possible survivors trapped under the rubble and to find and identify the remains of those killed at the World Trade Center. In total, 2,603 died when the towers were hit and collapsed. 414 of these victims were first responders.

Civilians did play an important role in the aftermath of September 11th as well. They helped move rubble from the collapsed buildings, provided meals and support to many of the first responders involved in rescue and recovery efforts, and gave the families of victims a shoulder to cry on.

Even politicians were involved in rescue and recovery efforts. New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, as well as President George W. Bush offered comfort and support to survivors and to the families of victims. They also ensured that these efforts had the financial backing and anything else necessary to make the work easier. Ultimately, these heroic citizens worked together to try and help as many people as they could after the events of September 11th, 2001.

common good - beliefs or actions that are seen as a benefit to the community rather than individual interests

first responders - police, firefighters, paramedics, and other professions that are generally the first to be called during an emergency or crisis

North Tower - one of the buildings that made up the World Trade Center, standing at 1,368 feet; it collapsed at 10:28 am on September 11th, 2001 after the crash of American Airlines Flight 11

South Tower - one of the buildings that made up the World Trade Center, standing at 1,362 feet; it collapsed at 9:59 am after the crash of United Airlines Flight 175

Twin Towers - common name for the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center