

Fort Worth's Landmark Tower



National Demolition Association members D.H. Griffin of Texas, Inc., Midwest Wrecking of Texas, Inc. and Demolition Dynamics Company recently teamed up to perform the explosives demolition of the Landmark Tower Building located at West 7th Street and Houston Ave in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. The building stood 407 feet in height and, although it stood on its own city block, it was tight with other buildings being as close as 70 feet away on one side from neighboring structures.

Midwest Wrecking of Texas was the General Contractor and performed the pre-implosion prep work on the lower levels of the structure, including the excavation of a 30-foot deep by 40-foot wide trench on two sides of the tower. The purpose of the trench was to create enough room to accept the debris during the collapse of the structure. Although the buildings basement and subbasement were as deep as 30 feet, it was decided that the trench would be required to insure that enough room was available for the debris.

IMPLODED

FORT WORTH, TX

D.H. Griffin of Texas, Inc. (DHGT) was hired by Midwest to perform the remainder of the pre-implosion prep work as well as the blasting of the structure. D.H. Griffin of Texas subcontracted the blasting portion of the project to Demolition Dynamics Company of Franklin, TN. The pre-implosion prep work that DHGT performed included the installation of 96 cables, the precutting and securing to the building of a steel stack that ran up the outside of the structure. The precutting, securing of a fire escape that went the full height of the building.



A unique part of this pre-implosion prep work was the installation of metal netting on the entire face of the structure. The Tower's owner wanted the entire building covered with netting to keep the exterior aluminum facing from becoming airborne during the building's collapse. The reason for the owner's concern was that in 2000 the building took a direct hit from a tornado and some of the aluminum panels blew off. So all four sides of the building from the third floor up to the roof were covered by the netting which required working from swing stage scaffolding at heights of over 380 feet from the ground.

Demolition Dynamics Company (DDC) used 364 pounds of explosives to bring the building down. The magic mixture consisted of 198 pounds of 1-inch 60% nitroglycerin-based gel for the heavy concrete columns in the basement and subbasement. These columns had triple spiral wrapping of rebar. DDC used 166 pounds (320 units) of RDX shaped charges, ranging from 600 grain per foot to 4000 grains per foot, and 122 delay periods over a six second period to bring the structure to the ground. DDC also installed falsework on the first floor, basement and subbasement levels in order to maintain control at the lower levels of the structure due to the Tower's asymmetrical column pattern.

Brian Choate and Dave Densmore of Midwest Wrecking of Texas, Inc. along with John Angelina and John Angelina, Jr. of D.H. Griffin of Texas, Inc. and Steve Pettigrew of Demolition Dynamics stayed intimately involved with the project throughout in order to communicate with the Owner, the City of Fort Worth and neighboring property owners to keep them up to date on the progress of the job and to insure a safe and successful project.

All of the above work was performed without a single lost-time injury while working at all levels of the structure and as high as 407 feet in the air on swing stage scaffolding.

All three companies put Safety First and followed all OSHA standards for floor openings and wall openings. Safety cable was installed around every wall opening and hard barricades were erected around all floor openings.

The unique partnership of these three companies assured a safe project, a happy client and a better Fort Worth.

DEMOLITION



**See our Gift & Safety
Catalog On-line
New Apparel Choices
In Stock!
Items Available Now!
Fill Your Shopping
Cart Today!**

WWW.DEMOLITIONASSOCIATION.COM