final inspection team applause I think

I've entered the pad it's sort of launch day dressed in bright orange protective

suits an elite group heads to the launch pad or a space shuttle awaits liftoff

but this crew isn't made up of astronauts heading for space

it's the final inspection team final inspection team has seven members on it

we have two photographers we have an infrared camera operator we have a member from safety we have two people looking with binoculars inspecting the whole tank and taking notes on what we
find and we have a person sending photographs damages back to the firing room on a laptop computer during a time when most workers are cleared from the launch pad this group spends more than two hours inspecting the fully fueled vehicle it's a beautiful sight up close and when you're there at that moment you only know just a very few people or allow the privilege of being out here the crew the people that support the crew to get them on board in ourselves that's all and so it's special it's very personal it's very real the final
inspection team has the crucial and potentially dangerous job of inspecting the spacecraft external tank and solid rocket boosters for the last time before launch. They look for any unusual ice buildup and caused by the super cold propellants earning them the nickname the ice team. The inspection includes looking for any debris or damage that could endanger the shuttle and the astronauts after liftoff using their cameras, binoculars, infrared sensors, and other equipment. Team members begin their inspection at the launch.
pads 255 foot level they methodically

00:01:49,170 --> 00:01:53,159
worked their way down the launch pad

00:01:50,938 --> 00:01:56,129
service structure checking in with

00:01:53,159 --> 00:01:57,990
launch control at each level right now

00:01:56,129 --> 00:01:59,819
we're at the 215 level and this is a

00:01:59,819 --> 00:02:01,920
pretty extensive level for us because we

00:02:01,920 --> 00:02:06,150
head out on the haunch to do a close-up

00:02:06,150 --> 00:02:11,550
inspection

00:02:08,639 --> 00:02:08,639
of the tank and SR B's and we can go

00:02:08,639 --> 00:02:13,919
around on the RSS platform to look at

00:02:11,550 --> 00:02:15,540
the front side of the orbiter along the

00:02:13,919 --> 00:02:18,839
way they electronically send images back

00:02:18,839 --> 00:02:22,379
to the launch control center for

00:02:15,539 --> 00:02:19,769
analysis imagery is really what we're

00:02:18,840 --> 00:02:22,379
all about
we're responsible giving the launch team

the launch director and the crew

assessment via imagery of how the space

vehicle is ready to go for flight and

post-flight how did it perform on post

flight the team finishes its inspection

at the base of the shuttle stack on the

surface of the mobile launch platform

there they checked solid rocket booster

a skirts as well as under the external

tank and the main engines after

departing the pad they head back to

launch control where the team leader

reports their findings to the launch
director

roll back baby 11 from consoles in the launch control center they continue monitoring through the rest of the countdown using the remote cameras as the shuttles final checks are completed then comes the pivotal moment when the main engines ignite solid rocket boosters Thunder and the spacecraft wars off the pad amid billows of smoke and steam ground and onboard cameras capture the shuttles ascent and separation from the Boosters and tank allowing the team to begin analyzing the results before
ending a 12-hour day it's all and a

launch day's work before the final

inspection team