



THE FIRE INSURANCE RATING  
ORGANIZATION OF N. J.  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
NEWARK 2, N. J.

# **New Milford Borough** **Bergen County, New Jersey**

JULY 31, 1952

**KEY**  
PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.  
NOTE.—Fire protection report on file in Engineering  
Department of F. I. R. O. of N. J.  
Elevations range from 0 to 100 feet above mean sea level.  
Water mains 8 inches and larger in diameter  
Water mains 6 inches in diameter  
Water mains 4 inches in diameter  
Fire hydrants shown thus

Gate valves shown thus  
Fire house shown thus  
Fire apparatus designated by symbols thus:  
① Pumping engine and hose car  
Ⓐ Ambulance, Squad or Auxiliary car  
⊕ Booster tank or tanks on above  
⊕ Ladders on above

## NEW MILFORD BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—3,215.

**IN GENERAL:** Located on the east bank of the Hackensack River about 5 miles north of Hackensack. It is chiefly a residential community with 4 small industries normally employing about 120. Area about 2.2 square miles. Elevations range from 0 to 100 feet. Main roads are improved, others are of dirt or gravel in fair to poor condition. There are no railroad crossings or steep grades which might interfere with the response of fire apparatus.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Hackensack Water Company from its New Milford Low Service. Supply is through 52-inch, 30-inch, 24-inch, and 12-inch mains from the New Milford Pumping Station which is located in the adjoining Borough of Oradell. For a detailed description of the Hackensack Water Company system see report and map No. 59. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of 6-inch and 8-inch mains with some gridiron; see map. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1945 in the entire territory served (84,266 live services) were 39,221 and 46,526 million gallons respectively. The maximum daily consumption was 39,526 and 8.65 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. The average daily consumption was 32,914 and 6,307 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. On December 31st, 1945 there were 1,186 services in New Milford, all of which were metered. It is estimated that 0.60% of the total consumption is used in New Milford. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint except the 52-inch transmission main which is steel. Pipe is laid with a 3-foot minimum cover. Total length, 115,560 feet; 11.91% 52-inch, 15.09% 30-inch, 4.75% 24-inch, 1.92% 16-inch, 3.35% 12-inch, 0.79% 8-inch, and 62.19% 6-inch. No trouble has been reported from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 314 within the borough of various makes set with iron boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform. All valves are inspected annually, with semi-annual inspections of major control valves. **Hydrants:** There are 75 within the borough of Smith and Corey makes of standard type. All have 6-inch gated branches with the exception of two which have 4-inch gated branches; two have one 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and the balance have two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets. All outlets have National Standard threads. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually, after use, and frequently during freezing weather. At time of inspection those operated were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 4 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 118 to 127 pounds with an average of 120.5 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on November 2nd, 1945 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Grand St. and Pershing Ave., 1,480—119—87.  
Main St. and River Rd., 2,030—118—58.  
Monmouth and Berkley Sts., 2,070—118—80.  
New Bridge Rd. and Prospect Ave., 760—127—24.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of 2 companies under the control of the borough which owns houses, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$1,600 for the support of the department during 1945. Total active membership 46, of whom a minimum of 12 are available at all times. Officers include a chief, 2 battalion chiefs, 2 captains, and 2 lieutenants who are elected annually by the companies. Mayor and council confirm the election of the chief. **Companies—Fire Company No. 1:** Membership 26. Located on Center Street near Summit Avenue in a 1-story frame addition to the municipal building which is a 2-story part frame and part concrete block building with composition roof, concrete apparatus floor, hot water heat, electric lights, and telephone. **Equipment:** A 1945 Mack 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 150-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 1,100 feet of 2½-inch hose, 450 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 1 salvage cover, and good minor equipment. A 1941 Dodge field ambulance converted as an emergency car carrying minor equipment for brush fires and used primarily to transport to the fire members arriving late at the fire house. **Fire Company No. 2:** Membership 20. Located on Trenton Street south of Mon-

mouth Street in a 1-story concrete block structure with concrete apparatus floor, composition on wood roof, electric lights, steam heater, telephone, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1938 Hahn 400-g.p.m. quadruple combination pumping engine carrying a 150-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 200 feet of 1½-inch hose, 6 ladders ranging from 12 to 40 feet and totaling 156 feet, a short-wave radio receiver, and fair minor equipment. A Cadillac converted emergency car carrying a 1,250-watt portable electric generator, 2 flood lights, 1 spot light, and some emergency and rescue equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is shifted and tested annually at about 200 pounds pressure and dried on apparatus floor. About 25% is over 5 years old; 350 feet is held in reserve at Company No. 1 and 400 feet at Company No. 2. **Operations:** Department is governed by borough ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started semi-weekly and each company has 12 appointed drivers. **Drills and Training:** Thirteen company drills are held throughout the year and in addition there are 6 departmental drills. Drills are held under the supervision of the chief and company officers and consist of pump operation, hose and ladder work, and use of minor equipment. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on incipient fires reinforced by hydrant and engine lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is almost totally lacking in gas masks, heavy stream appliances, and salvage equipment. **Response to Alarms:** The Mack pumping engine and the Hahn quad respond to all alarms of fire with the converted ambulance arriving later and the Cadillac emergency car responding when deemed necessary. Outside aid may be secured from the volunteer departments of the surrounding municipalities. **Building Inspection:** Fire chief and assistants make annual inspections of schools and manufacturing establishments. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires and drills and chief submits a monthly report to the fire commissioner and an annual report to the mayor and council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Oradell Telephone Exchange to police headquarters in the municipal building. From here they are relayed by private telephone to the Hackensack Water Company's New Milford Pumping Station, whence they are sounded by means of coded signals on the company's steam whistle. They are also sounded from the police desk as coded signals on the siren located at Company No. 2. There are 24 codes which signify the district in which fire is located.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of a chief, lieutenant, sergeant, one patrolman, and 3 full-time marshals. Police work in 9-hour shifts and maintain 24-hour duty at police desk in municipal building. Department is provided with one patrol car with two-way short-wave radio and there is one street telephone box located at Main Street and River Road. There are three telephone trunk lines at police desk, none of which is reserved for fire alarm purposes. Police respond to alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

**BUILDING LAWS:** Code adopted January 2nd, 1923 and amended to November 27th, 1944 provides for the appointment of a building inspector and requires plans and specifications for building construction. Code does not establish fire limits nor regulate use of wood shingled roofs. There are some good provisions regarding chimneys and heating appliances, but code is inadequate from a fire protection standpoint.

**FIRE PREVENTION LAWS:** A fire protection ordinance adopted July 1st, 1930 provides for inspection of public buildings and mercantile establishments by the fire chief and authorized members of the fire department. Ordinance requires permits for storage of combustible materials and has some good features regarding public garages. State laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives and flammables and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

**ZONING ORDINANCE:** Adopted December 6th, 1938 and amended to April 8th, 1940.