



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

**Oradell Borough**  
**Bergen County, New Jersey**

MAY 31, 1946

## ORADELL BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census — 2,802.

**IN GENERAL:** Located on the Hackensack River and the New Jersey and New York Railroad about three miles south of Westwood. It is almost entirely a residential community. Area 2.9 square miles. Elevations range from 10 to 160 feet. Through roads are paved and in good condition, the others being gravel or dirt in fair to poor condition. There are no steep grades, and the one railroad crossing has not interfered with the response of fire apparatus.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is supplied by the Hackensack Water Company from its New Milford Low Service. Supply is through a 24-inch main from the New Milford Pumping Station and through a 12-inch main from the same pumping station with the Western Reservoir acting as equalizer. Supply is also through a 16-inch main connecting with the 52-inch supply line from the New Milford Pumping Station. 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 lines with some gridiron, supplied by 8-inch, 12-inch, 16-inch, and 24-inch transmission mains. 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 840 services in Oradell, all of which were metered. It is estimated that 0.432% of the total consumption is used in Oradell. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with a minimum 3-foot cover. Total length, 86,795 feet; 3.96% 24-inch, 2.74% 20-inch, 2.26% 16-inch, 16.06% 12-inch, 0.19% 10-inch, 8.72% 8-inch, 61.20% 6-inch, and 4.87% 4-inch. No trouble has been reported from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 218 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 78 within the borough of Smith and Corey makes of standard type; two have one 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets; balance have two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets. Outlets have National Standard threads. All hydrants have 6-inch gated branches with the exception of two which have 4-inch gated branches. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually, after use, and frequently during winter months. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 4 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 67 to 117 pounds with an average of 96½ pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on November 1st, 1945 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Elizabeth and High Sts., 780—90—62.  
Kinderkamack Rd. N. of Oradell Ave., 1,960—112—94.  
Pershing and Oradell Aves., 1,000—117—104.  
Summit Ave. and Soldier Hill Rd., 290—67—9.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of one company under the control of the borough which owns houses, apparatus, and equipment, and appropriates about \$3,000 annually for the support of the department. Total active membership 38, of whom about 16 are available at all times. Officers include a chief, assistant chief, captain, and lieutenant who are elected annually by the company and confirmed by the borough. **Company—Oradell Volunteer Fire Company:** Located on Kinderkamack Road north of Ridgewood Road in a 2-story frame building with wood floor, composition shingle on wood roof, electric lights, steam heat, telephone, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1928 American La France 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying an 80-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 1,150 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 1 all-service gas mask, and good minor equipment. A 1934 G.M.C. hose car with a booster pump and 125-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 450 feet of 2½-inch hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 1 distributor nozzle, 1 all-service gas mask, and good minor equipment. Located in

borough garage on Westervelt Place south of Lake Avenue in a 2-story concrete block building with concrete apparatus floor, composition on wood roof, steam heat, and electric lights is a 1940 Buffalo 55-foot city service ladder truck carrying 150 feet of 2½-inch hose, 9 ladders ranging from 12 to 55 feet and totaling 243 feet, an 1,800-watt portable electric generator, 2 flood lights, 1 spot light, 2 salvage covers, 1 gas mask, and good minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. There are no provisions for drying and hose is shifted and tested twice annually at about 160 pounds pressure and re-packed wet on apparatus. About 1,000 feet is over 5 years old and 400 feet of 2½-inch hose and 500 feet of 1½-inch hose are held in reserve at borough garage. **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. Engines are started semi-weekly. There are 17 appointed drivers for the hose car, 8 drivers for the engine, and 6 drivers for the hook and ladder truck. **Drills and Training:** Monthly drills are held throughout the year, under supervision of the chief officers, and consist of the usual evolutions. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on incipient fires reinforced by engine and hydrant lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is equipped with 3 gas masks, 2 salvage covers, and 1 distributor nozzle. **Response to Alarms:** Hose car and pumping engine respond to all alarms of fire in the borough. Ladder truck responds only when required. Outside aid may be secured from the volunteer departments of the nearby municipalities. **Building Inspection:** Chief makes an annual inspection of mercantile buildings. He keeps records of these inspections and reports to the mayor and council. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires and drills, and chief makes an annual report to the mayor and council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarm system is under the supervision of the borough electrician. Headquarters equipment is located in the fire house and consists of a transformer, relay, and siren brake. Circuit is 3-phase, 220-volt, closed, about one mile long of No. 8 hard drawn copper wire triple braided, weatherproof, mounted on utility company poles. Circuit carries 3 alarm boxes of Harrington-Seaburg make of sector-pull type, 1 breakwheel transmitter, and an electric siren. Boxes are not subjected to regular tests, but system is tested daily by time signals. Boxes do not sound locations, but designate districts. Borough is divided into 6 districts, 3 of which are designated by the 3 alarm boxes. Telephone alarms are received at the police desk in municipal building on Kinderkamack Road. Alarms are sounded by means of breakwheel transmitter at the police desk. A telephone located at the fire house enables firemen to communicate with police headquarters and determine the exact location of the fire. There is no telephone located at the garage housing the ladder truck.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of a chief, sergeant, 4 patrolmen, and 16 specials. Regular men work in 8-hour shifts and maintain 24-hour duty at the police desk. Department is provided with one telephone at the police desk and is equipped with one patrol car with short wave radio. Police respond to all alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

**BUILDING LAWS:** Code adopted November 25th, 1940 provides for the annual appointment of a building inspector and the enforcement of the building code. The code outlines fire limits and prohibits frame construction, with the exception of dwellings, and wood shingled roofs within these limits. Code is lacking with regard to height and area of buildings and protection of openings, but in other respects has good features.

**FIRE PREVENTION LAWS:** No municipal regulations. 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 March 9th, 1931 and subsequently amended.