



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

Mountainside Borough **Union County, N. J.**

JUNE 30, 1951

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 80 to 546 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:

(Y) Pumping engine and hose car

(H) Hose car

⊕ Booster tank or tanks on above

MOUNTAINSIDE BOROUGH, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—1,148.

IN GENERAL: Located north of Westfield and on State Highway Route No. 29. It is principally a farming and residential community. Area about 4.1 square miles. Elevations range from 80 to 546 feet. Main roads are concrete while others are macadam or gravel in fair to poor condition. There are no railroad crossings, but some steep grades might, in adverse weather, retard the response of fire apparatus to the higher portions of the borough.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Plainfield-Union Water Company. Mountainside is supplied by 6-inch mains from the Westfield distribution system and by an 8-inch main from Scotch Plains. The higher portion of the borough to the northwest is on a high service supplied by the Glenside Avenue Booster Station in Scotch Plains, with a standpipe on Sky Top Drive acting as equalizer. For a detailed description of the Plainfield-Union Water Company system see report and map No. 124. **Distribution System:** In two services. See map and description above. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1945 in the entire territory served (31,715 live services) was 9.76 m.g.d. and 10.0 m.g.d. respectively. On January 1st, 1946 there were 367 services in Mountainside, all of which were metered, and it is estimated that 0.926% of the total consumption is used in Mountainside. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3-foot cover. Total length, 55,425 feet; 10.0% 10-inch, 15.2% 8-inch, and 74.8% 6-inch. No trouble has been experienced from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 87 in the borough of R. D. Wood, Smith, and Rensselaer makes set with iron boxes to grade. Direction of operation is uniform. There are no regular inspections of valves. **Hydrants:** There are 55 in the borough of Wood, Corey, and Smith makes of standard type with two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 6-inch gated branches. Large outlets have National Standard threads and small outlets have 3 inches outside diameter and 8 threads per inch. Hydrants are inspected annually and those operated during this survey were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 5 well distributed locations on both the low and high services showed pressures ranging from 28 to 47 pounds with an average of 38½ pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on February 13th, 1946 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow and pressure during flow were as follows:

Low Service—

Mountain and Woodland Aves., 1,240—47—38.
State Highway Route No. 29, 1,650 ft. W. of Lawrence Ave., 930—28—17.
Central Ave., 300 ft. N. W. of Virginia Ave., 380—39—7.
State Highway Route No. 29, 400 ft. N. E. of Mill Lane, 370—46—6.

High Service—

Bay Berry Lane, 450 ft. S. of New Providence Rd., 920—32—23.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under the control of the borough which owns house, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$2,900 for the support of the department during 1945. Total active membership 19, of whom a minimum of 5 are available at all times. Officers include a chief, 2 assistant chiefs, a foreman, and assistant foreman. They are elected annually by the company and confirmed by the borough. **Company—Mountainside Engine Company No. 1:** Located on State

Highway Route No. 29 west of Mountain Avenue in a 1-story brick structure with built-up roof, concrete floor, steam heat, electric lights, hose rack, and telephone. **Equipment:** A 1940 Mack 600-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 200-gallon booster tank, 250 feet of booster hose, 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose, 350 feet of 1½-inch hose, a 40-foot extension ladder, 3 short ladders, 2 lengths of hard suction hose, 1 all-service gas mask, 2 salvage covers, and good minor equipment. A 1936 Ford hose car carrying 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, a 1,250-watt portable electric generator, 3 flood lights, 1 spot light, 2 all-service gas masks, 4 salvage covers, and good minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is shifted every three months and dried on hose rack in fire house, but is not subjected to regular tests. About 40% of the total supply is over 5 years old and 20% is 7 years old or older. There is a reserve supply of 800 feet. **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 weekly. Four men are appointed as drivers, but other men may drive in their absence. **Drills and Training:** About 18 drills are held during the year under the supervision of the chief officers and consist of hose laying, pump operation, and some ladder work and use of minor equipment. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on small fires reinforced with lines of 1½-inch and 2½-inch hose. There are 3 all-service gas masks and 6 salvage covers, but department is lacking in other salvage equipment and in heavy stream appliances. **Response to Alarms:** Company responds to all alarms in the borough and outside aid may be secured from Westfield, Springfield, and Scotch Plains. **Building Inspection:** Semi-annual inspections are made, by members of the fire department, of schools and mercantile establishments. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires, and chief makes a monthly report to the borough council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned to the police desk in the municipal building adjacent to the fire house. In the event that there is no answer they are telephoned to the home of the fire chief and telephone line has extensions at the fire house and police headquarters. Alarms are sounded on a siren on the roof of the municipal building by means of switches located at police desk, on front of fire house, and at the fire chief's home.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, lieutenant, 3 patrolmen, and 8 specials. Regulars work in 8-hour shifts. One patrol car with two-way short wave radio communicating with the Scotch Plains Police Radio System is provided. Police respond to alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 13th, 1937 has some good provisions for chimneys and heating appliances, wall thicknesses, fire stops and parapets, but does not establish fire limits nor prohibit combustible roof coverings, and in general does not conform to the Code of Suggested Ordinances for Small Municipalities of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: Building code contains regulations for oil burning appliances which closely follow those of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. 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.