



KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE. Shown in Green.

NOTE—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.

Elevations range from 0 to 10 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) Automobile combination pumper and hose car



- (H) Hose car
- (C) Chemical tank or tanks on above
- (B) Booster tank or tanks on above
- (L) Ladder truck

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

City of Wildwood
Cape May County, New Jersey

JANUARY 31, 1949

CITY OF WILDWOOD, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census — 5,150. Estimated Summer Population — 125,000.

IN GENERAL: Located on the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines Railroad about 10 miles northeast of Cape May It is principally a summer resort with 9 small industries employing about 120. Area 1.2 square miles. Elevations range from 0 to 10 feet. Streets are mainly paved and in fair to good condition. Traffic congestion in the mercantile district and railroad grade crossings are said not to interfere with the response of fire apparatus

WATER SUPPLY: The City of Wildwood owns the supply works and supplies water to Wildwood, North Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, and West Wildwood. The city owns the distribution system and appurtenances in all of the municipalities served with the exception of West Wildwood which purchases water from Wildwood. **Organization:** The water department is under the control of the mayor and is in charge of a capable superintendent. There is a plant engineer and 3 operators at the Rio Grande Plant, a superintendent and 2 operators at the Wildwood Plant, and a foreman and 4 outside men. Superintendent, engineer, and foreman are well qualified and are familiar with the system. Three vehicles are provided and a truck with emergency crew responds to all alarms. Records consist of fairly up-to-date distribution maps, up-to-date sectional field sheets, and pumping statistics. **Supply Works:** Water is obtained from 27 wells at the Rio Grande Station and pumped through 16-inch and 20-inch transmission mains to the distribution system with the standpipes acting as equalizers. In addition a supplementary supply is obtained during the summer months from two wells at the Wildwood Station. **Rio Grande Station:** A high one-story brick building with concrete floor, composition shingle roof, steam heat, electric lights, and telephone. Exposures are negligible. Wiring is in conduit. Housekeeping is good. Elevation of pump room floor about 5 feet. Supply is obtained from a total of 27 deep wells from 6 inches to 16 inches in diameter and 50 feet to 523 feet deep. Twenty-one of the wells are normally free flowing and discharge into a 206,500-gallon concrete suction basin. The remaining 6 wells are equipped with low lift deep well turbines which also discharge to the suction basin. High lift pumps can take suction directly from well headers or from the suction basin. Total yield is estimated to be about 5.5 m.g.d. The 6 turbine equipped wells have a total capacity of 6.04 m.g.d. One well is piped for air. It has a yield when used as air lift of about 0.72 m.g.d. **Equipment—Low Lift:** One 1.5-m.g.d. Layne deep well pump driven by a 30-h.p. U. S. electric motor. One 0.36-m.g.d. Deming deep well pump driven by a 7½-h.p. U. S. electric motor. One 0.576-m.g.d. Pomona deep well pump driven by a 20-h.p. electric motor. One 1.8-m.g.d. Cook deep well pump driven by a 30-h.p. electric motor. One 0.72-m.g.d. Worthington deep well pump driven by a 15-h.p. U. S. electric motor. One 1.01-m.g.d. Cook deep well pump driven by a 25-h.p. electric motor. One 500-cubic foot per minute Pennsylvania air compressor driven by a 75-h.p. Otto Diesel engine. Necessary vacuum pumps are provided. **High Lift:** A 1.5-m.g.d. Rumsey triplex pump driven by a 150-h.p. Otto Diesel engine. A 2.0-m.g.d. Fairbanks-Morse centrifugal pump driven by a 90-h.p. Fairbanks-Morse Diesel engine. A 3.5-m.g.d. Fairbanks-Morse centrifugal pump driven by a 165-h.p. Fairbanks-Morse Diesel engine and a 4.0-m.g.d. De Laval centrifugal pump driven by a 150-h.p. Westinghouse electric motor. Oil is stored in two 10,000-gallon above-ground tanks at the rear of the station. No dikes are provided. **Wildwood Station:** Located at Pine and New Jersey Avenues in a 1- and 2½-story stuccoed frame building with concrete floor, asbestos shingled roof, hot water heat, and electric lights. Hand extinguishers and outside hydrants are provided. Mild exposure from nearby dwellings. Wiring is in conduit and housekeeping is good. Elevation of floor about 8½ feet. Supply is obtained from two 10-inch wells 350 and 940 feet deep. Yield about 10 m.g.d. **Equipment:** A 0.432-m.g.d. Pomona deep well pump driven by a 15-h.p. electric motor. A 0.72-m.g.d. Pomona deep well pump driven by a 15-h.p. electric motor. A 1.44-m.g.d. De Laval centrifugal pump driven by a 50-h.p. G. E. electric motor. A 2.5-m.g.d. De Laval centrifugal pump driven by a 90-h.p. Otto Diesel engine. Deep well pumps discharge to a covered concrete 500,000-gallon reservoir. High lift pumps take suction from the reservoir and discharge directly to the distribution system. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of 16-inch, 14-inch, and 12-inch lateral arteries and well gridironed 6-inch and 4-inch mains. **Standpipes:** One at Wildwood, steel, 30 feet in diameter by 110 feet high, capacity 581,500 gallons, two at North Wildwood, one steel, 10 feet in diameter by 110 feet high, capacity 64,000 gallons, and one steel, 30 feet in diameter by 110 feet high, capacity 581,500 gallons; one in Wildwood Crest, steel, 35 feet in diameter by 110 feet high, capacity 791,000 gallons. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1947 in the entire territory served (6,350 live services) were 1,524 and 4,852 million gallons. It is estimated that 62.4% of the entire consumption was used in Wildwood and West Wildwood combined, 19.9% in North Wildwood, and 17.7% in Wildwood Crest. At the time of inspection there were about 3,200 live services in Wildwood, all of which were metered. **Pipe:** About 80% is reinforced cement pipe and the balance is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint. It is laid with from 2-foot to 2½-foot cover. Total length in Wildwood, 144,450 feet, 2.1% 20-inch, 7.3% 16-inch, 1.1% 14-inch, 3.4% 12-inch, 5.6% 10-inch, 2.4% 8-inch, 43.4% 6-inch, 34.4% 4-inch, and 0.3% 3-inch. **Gate Valves:** There are 348 in the city of Ludlow, Kennedy, and Darling makes. Large valves are set in manholes; others being set in iron boxes at grade. All valves turn right to open with the exception of 2 which have direction marked on covers. Valves are inspected and operated annually. **Hydrants:** There are 203 in the city of Ludlow, Mathews, and Columbian makes of standard type, practically all of which have two 2½-inch outlets and one 4½-inch outlet. All have 6-inch gated branches. Hose outlets have Jones snap couplings. Larger outlets have National Standard threads. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually and those operated during resurvey were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 5 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 35 to 40 pounds with an average of 39 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on October 14, 1948 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Pacific and Wildwood Aves, 540—39—38
Schellenger Ave and Boardwalk, 480—35—33
Montgomery and Susquehanna Aves, 560—40—35
Juniper and Lake Aves, 660—40—30
Pacific and Burk Aves, 1,300—40—36

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A part-paid organization of two companies under the control of the city which owns houses, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$19,500 for the support of the department during 1948. There are 6 paid men, 3 working at each house on 24-hour shifts with a minimum of one paid man on duty at each house. Only one man is permitted on vacation at a time when a relief man is provided. There are 70 volunteer members evenly divided between the 2 companies, with a minimum of 16 volunteers available from headquarters and 20 volunteers available from the Pine Avenue Station. Officers include a part-paid chief who is appointed annually by the city commission, 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, and 5 second lieutenants who are elected annually by companies, elections being confirmed by the city. **Companies—Holly Beach Fire Company No. 1:** Located at fire headquarters on Pacific Avenue near Montgomery Avenue in a 3-story joisted brick building with composition covered roof, concrete apparatus floor, hot water heat, electric lights, visual indicator, gong, transmitter, telephone, and hose tower. **Equipment:** A 1940 American La France 85-foot aerial ladder truck carrying 10 ground ladders ranging from 12 to 45 feet and totaling 232 feet, 2 all-purpose gas masks, a 1,250-watt portable electric generator, 3 flood lights, 5 salvage covers, and good minor equipment. A 1913 American La France 65-foot aerial ladder truck carrying 7 ground ladders ranging from 12 to 40 feet and totaling 156 feet, and meager minor equipment. A 1931 GMC hose car carrying two 40-gallon chemical tanks, 150 feet of chemical hose, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, 3 short ladders, 3 salvage covers, and fair minor equipment. A 1920 American La France 500-g.p.m. double combination pumping engine carrying 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose and meager minor equipment. **Wildwood Fire Company No. 1:** Located on Pine Avenue near New Jersey Avenue in a 3-story brick and frame building with built-up roof, concrete apparatus floor, electric lights, hot water heat, tape register, gong, and 2 telephones, but no hose drying facilities. **Equipment:** A 1937 American La France 1,250-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 100-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 900 feet of 2½-inch hose, 350 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, one all-purpose gas mask, and fair minor equipment. A 1931 Mack 750-g.p.m. double combination pumping engine carrying 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, one all-purpose gas mask, and meager minor equipment. A 1915 American La France hose and chemical car carrying a 35-gallon chemical tank, 100 feet of chemical hose, 600 feet of 2½-inch hose, and meager minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with Jones snap couplings. It is shifted and tested semi-annually at about 120 pounds pressure and dried in tower at fire headquarters and on sidewalk at the Pine Avenue Station. All hose is over 5 years old and reserve supply of 2½-inch hose at the 2 stations totals 1,500 feet. **Operations:** Department is governed by company by-laws under the supervision of the mayor and council. Chief has control of apparatus and paid men at all times and of volunteers at fires and drills. Motors are started daily and in addition to the paid drivers ample volunteer drivers are appointed. **Drills and Training:** Sixteen weekly drills are held during the spring and fall with no regular drills scheduled for winter and summer months. Drills are held under the supervision of company officers and consist of the usual evolutions. **Fire Methods:** Booster and chemical lines are used on incipient fires reinforced by 1½-inch and 2½-inch lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is provided with 4 gas masks and 8 salvage covers, but is totally lacking in heavy stream appliances and other salvage equipment. **Response to Alarms:** All apparatus with the exception of the La France hose car responds to all alarms within the city, and outside aid may be secured from North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest. One pumper only is dispatched for alarms known to be brush or automobile fires. **Building Inspection:** Routine inspections are made by the chief officers throughout summer months along the boardwalk only or upon complaint for other areas. No records are kept of inspections. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires and drills, but no regular report is submitted to the city. **Fire Alarms:** System is a part of the fire department and is maintained by the city electrician. Headquarters equipment is located in the Pine Avenue fire house and exposed by the apparatus room and frame portions of the building. It consists of a 4-circuit Gamewell slate operating board and a 4-circuit automatic repeater. A break wheel transmitter is located at fire headquarters. Circuits are protected by 3-ampere fuses and choke coil lightning arresters with 3-ampere fuses on board. There are a visual indicator, gong, and 2 tappers at fire headquarters and a tape register, gong, and tappers at the Pine Avenue Station, and a compressed air whistle for calling volunteers. Current is supplied by 8 rectifiers and the 156 cells floating. Cells are mounted on glass plates on wooden shelves. There are 3 overhead circuits carried in telephone cable leased from the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. Wire is No. 18 copper. There are 20 boxes, of which 5 are Peerless sector pull interfering, eight are Excelsior non-interfering, and the remainder are Gamewell succession type. They are mounted on utility company poles with red and white bands, but no indicating lights. They are shunt tested monthly and circuits are tested daily, but no records are kept of tests. Telephone alarms are received at fire headquarters where they are transmitted over the alarm system by means of break wheel transmitter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, captain, 4 detectives, and 19 patrolmen who work in 8-hour shifts and maintain constant duty at police desk in city hall. Department is provided with 18 street boxes, a 3-trunk telephone switchboard, and 2 radio equipped patrol cars. Police respond to all alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 18, 1922 and subsequently amended provides for the appointment of a competent building inspector, establishes fire limits, and prohibits wood shingled roofs within the fire limits. Code has some good provisions, but is not sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: Ordinances adopted July 26, 1932 provide the fire chief with some authority for inspecting premises and regulating the burning of refuse and the accumulation of trash and combustible material. However, ordinances are not sufficiently comprehensive. State laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives, the transportation of flammables, and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

ZONING ORDINANCE: Adopted February 13, 1940 and subsequently amended.