



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

Weehawken Township
Hudson County, New Jersey

APRIL 30, 1946

- KEY**
- PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
- NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
- Elevations range from 0 to 183 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:
- Pumping engine and hose car
 - Hose car
 - Ladder truck
 - Booster tank or tanks on abore

WEEHAWKEN TOWNSHIP, HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—14,363.

IN GENERAL: Located on the Hudson River adjoining the northerly limits of Hoboken opposite Midtown New York. It is an industrial and shipping community with a waterfrontage of about one mile along the west bank of the Hudson River and an important terminal of the West Shore and Erie Railroads and about 25 industries employing about 1,500. Area about 0.7 square miles. Elevations range from 0 to 183 feet. Streets are concrete or macadam and Belgian block in fair to good condition. Steep grades and traffic congestion could interfere with the response and operation of the fire department.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Hackensack Water Company which owns and operates the supply works, distribution system, and appurtenances and supplies water to all or part of 50 other municipalities in Hudson and Bergen Counties. The entire supply is taken from the Hackensack River about 15 miles northwest of Weehawken at the New Milford Pumping Station in the north central section of the area served, where it is pumped to purification works and repumped continuously to low and high services with two distributing reservoirs on the low service in Weehawken. The portion of the system in Weehawken is partly on the Weehawken High Service District "A" supplied by direct pumpage from the New Durham Pumping Station, and partly on the Weehawken Low Service supplied by gravity from Reservoirs No. 1 and No. 2, and by direct pumpage from the New Milford Low Service pumping system through pressure regulators. For a detailed description of the Hackensack Water Company see report and map No. 59. **Distribution System:** In two services. See map and description above. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1945 in the entire territory served (84,226 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 1,170 services in Weehawken, all of which were metered. It is estimated that 5.51% of the total consumption is used in Weehawken. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3 1/2-foot minimum cover. All new pipe installed up to 12-inch since 1938 is cement lined. Total length, exclusive of 20-inch, 24-inch and 30-inch low service mains, 74,483 feet; 2.6% 24-inch, 11.0% 16-inch, 8.9% 12-inch, 6.2% 8-inch, 67.3% 6-inch, and 4.0% 4-inch. No trouble reported from electrolysis and freezing during severe weather has been confined to service connections. **Gate Valves:** There are 278 within the township of various makes set with valve boxes to grade, except large valves which are set in brick vaults. Direction of operation is uniform. Inspection of valves is continuous resulting in about one complete annual inspection of all valves and semi-annual inspection of major control valves. **Hydrants:** There are 152 within the township of Smith, Corey, and Ludlow makes of standard type; 2 have two 2 1/2-inch and one 4 1/2-inch outlets and 15 have one 2 1/2-inch and one 4 1/2-inch outlets with 4-inch gated branches. Balance have two 2 1/2-inch outlets, one 4 1/2-inch outlet, and 6-inch gated branches. Outlet threads are National Standard. 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 5 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 60 to 82 pounds with an average of 73.6 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on November 23rd, 1945 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow and pressure during flow were as follows:

Weehawken High Service District "A"—
Park Ave. and 46th St., 1,670—82—65.
Columbia Ter. and Hudson Blvd. East, 1,600—76—62.
Kingswood Rd 500 ft. S. of Bellevue St., 480—72—12.
Dodd St and Hudson Ave., 880—60—26.
Weehawken Low Service—
West 18th and Grand Sts., 860—78—34.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A full paid organization under the supervision of the Chairman of the Fire Committee of the Township Committee. Total membership 48 including a chief, a captain who is acting deputy chief, 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 3 acting lieutenants, 3 desk men, 2 drivers, 19 regular firemen, and 14 temporary firemen. Members are appointed to the department by the township committee after physical and mental examination and serve a three-month probationary period. Officers are appointed by the township committee. Men are divided into 2 platoons on duty alternately 10 and 14 hours each third day. Meals are served in fire station. Members receive 14 days annual vacation during which period the department is depleted by one man per company per platoon. The off-shift platoon is required to respond to all general alarms on notification by telephone. A pension fund is established by state law supported by assessments on the salaries of members with a proportional amount appropriated by the township. Members may retire on half salary in case of total disability or after 20 years of service if 50 years of age. Township appropriated \$160,500 for the support of the department during 1945. **Companies—Engine Company No. 1:** Membership 8 including one lieutenant and one acting lieutenant. Located on Willow Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets. Building is a 2-story joisted brick structure with metal roof, wood apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and hose tower. **Equipment:** One 1941 American La France 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 100-gallon booster tank, 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, 250 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, 250 feet of booster hose, 2 short ladders, and good minor equipment. **Engine Company No. 2:** Membership 8 including one lieutenant and one acting lieutenant. Located on the east end of Jane Street. Building is a 2-story joisted brick structure with a tar and gravel roof, wood apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and hose tower. **Equipment:** One 1923 American La France 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 80-gallon booster tank, 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, 250 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, 250 feet of booster hose, 2 short ladders and good minor equipment. In reserve one 1919 South Bend 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 40-gallon booster tank, 300 feet of booster hose, 250 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, 500 pounds of foam

powder, and some minor equipment. **Engine Company No. 3:** Membership 15 including one captain and one acting lieutenant. Located on Park Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets. Building is a 2-story brick structure with a slag roof, wood apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and hose tower. **Equipment:** One 1924 American La France 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 80-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, 250 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and good minor equipment. One 1920 Mack hose car, serving as a general utility truck, carrying 300 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, a small portable pump, and some minor equipment. **Engine Company No. 4—Headquarters:** Membership 10 including one captain and one lieutenant. Located on Duer Place near Highwood Avenue. Building is a 2-story frame structure with an asbestos shingle roof, wood apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and hose tower. Building is used as a meeting hall for various civic organizations. **Equipment:** One 1928 Maxim 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying an 80-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 200 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, and good minor equipment. One chief's car. **Truck Company No. 1:** Membership included with Engine Company No. 3. Located with Engine Company No. 3. **Equipment:** One 1924 American La France 75-foot aerial ladder truck carrying ladders ranging from 12 to 45 feet and totaling 227 feet, a ladder pipe, life net, deluge set, and good minor equipment. **Truck Company No. 2:** Membership included with Engine Company No. 2. Located with Engine Company No. 2. **Equipment:** One 1941 American La France 100-foot aerial truck carrying ladders ranging from 25 to 45 feet, totaling 205 feet, a life net, and good minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2 1/2-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is tested annually at 200 pounds, shifted monthly, and dried in hose tower. There is a total supply of 10,150 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, of which 6,150 feet is kept in reserve. Of the total supply about 30% is more than 5 years old and about 15% is more than 7 years old. **Operations:** Department is governed by township ordinance and operates under the general supervision of the chairman of fire committee. The chief officer alternates duty with the deputy chief. Each officer has charge of the department when on duty. Members may be suspended by the chief officer pending a hearing of charges by the township committee. Motors are started daily. Two members are assigned to drive each piece of apparatus. **Drills and Training:** No regular drills were being held at time of inspection. **Fire Methods:** Booster streams are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off nozzles. Gas masks, salvage equipment and heavy stream appliances are carried. **Response to Alarms:** Two engine and one truck companies respond to all first alarms and identical response is made to second alarms. Substantial outside aid may be secured from the full paid departments at Hoboken, Union City, West New York, and New York City. **Building Inspection:** Inspections are made of all mercantile and industrial buildings at least four times each year. Records are incomplete and consist mainly of a file of complaints. **Records and Reports:** A complete record is kept of all fires, a journal is kept in each house and the chief makes monthly and annual reports to the township committee. **Fire Alarm System:** Fire alarm system is part of fire department and is maintained by a captain and a fireman who do all installation and maintenance work. **Headquarters equipment:** is located in a fireproof annex to Engine Company No. 4 house. Apparatus is of Horni manufacture and consists of a 4-circuit slate operating board with the necessary switches for testing and operation. There is a single circuit divided into four loops. Circuit is protected by 3-ampere fuses and inert gas lightning arresters where circuit enters fire houses, by 1/2-ampere fuses on the operating board, by 3-ampere fuses on battery rack and by 1-ampere fuses on rectifiers. Current for operation of system is supplied by 4 oxide film rectifiers serviced from the 110-volt lighting circuit with 4 banks of storage batteries of 12 cells each floating. Batteries are mounted on standard rack and are located in room with operating board. All inside wiring is in conduit. There are gongs located in each of the four fire houses and in police headquarters and 36 Carwell-Harrington-Seaburg succession type boxes, of which three are inaccessible to the public. The majority of the fire alarm boxes are grounded with No. 8 wire to driven copper rods and are mounted on utility company poles with red indicating bands at or near street intersections. There is a total of about 55,000 feet of No. 10 hard drawn copper, triple braided weatherproofed wire mounted on utility company poles below power wires and about 1,500 feet of No. 10 lead covered cable underground. Three telephone trunk lines extend from public exchange and are all reserved exclusively for fire calls. Fire alarm circuits are tested daily by the operation of a fire alarm box. There are no records of tests, inspections, nor trouble. Telephone alarms are not transmitted over the fire alarm system. Telephone switchboard located at Engine Company No. 4 has extensions to all fire stations and police headquarters. Constant watch is maintained at Engine Company No. 4 and from 8 a. m. to 10 p. m. at the remainder of the companies. There is an A.D.T. register and gong at Engine Company No. 4.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, 1 captain, 4 lieutenants, 3 sergeants, and 41 patrolmen working on 8-hour shifts. There are 11 police signaling boxes distributed throughout the township over which patrolmen report. A combination ambulance and patrol car, 3 radio equipped patrol cars, 1 detective's car, and 1 motorcycle are provided. Patrolmen respond to alarms of fire with ambulance. They also report unauthorized building construction to building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 1st, 1926 provides for the appointment of a building inspector and requires that plans be filed before building operations may begin. Code closely follows that recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Fire limits are established, but combustible roofs are prohibited only in fire limits.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: The building code has some fair regulations in regard to dry cleaning, garages, oil burners, and motion picture machines and booths. 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. A complete fire prevention ordinance was under consideration at time of inspection.