



Schedule Rating Office of New Jersey
 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 NEWARK, N. J.

Somerdale Borough
 Including Hi-Nella Borough
 Camden County, New Jersey

JUNE 30, 1944

KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.

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

Elevations range from 40 to 105 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
- ⓐ Chemical car
- ⓐ Chemical tank or tanks on above

SOMERDALE BOROUGH, CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Including Hi-Nella Borough.

Population — Census of 1940 was 1170.

IN GENERAL: Located along the White Horse Pike on the Atlantic City Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad about 8 miles southeast of Camden. It is mainly a residential community with no industrial establishments. Area about 1.4 square miles. Elevations range from 40 to 105 feet. Main thoroughfare is concrete and some streets in developed section are improved and in fair condition. Railroad crossings are such that they should not seriously interfere with the response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: The Laurel Springs Water Company, a subsidiary of the Delaware Valley Utilities Company owns and operates the supply works and distribution system and supplies water for domestic and fire protection purposes to Somerdale and all or part of 8 other nearby communities. For details as to organization, supply works, pumping station, and storage facilities see report on Laurel Springs with Map No. 100. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of a single 6-inch artery with short 6-inch dead end branches; see map. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1942 in the entire territory served from Laurel Springs (2,077 live services) was 0.558 and 0.77 million gallons. On December 31st, 1942 there were 424 services in Somerdale, only a few of which were metered. **Pipe:** All cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, A. W. W. A. Class "A", laid with 2- to 4-foot cover. Total length, 17,400 feet; 94.25% 6-inch and 5.75% 8-inch. No trouble from electrolysis. Some trouble from freezing. **Gate Valves:** There are 7 on the system in Somerdale of R. D. Wood make set with valve boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform. Valves are operated and inspected semi-annually. Fire department is notified when valves affecting hydrant supply are operated. **Hydrants:** There are 14 on the system in Somerdale of Mathews make. All are of standard type with two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 4-inch ungated branches. Hose outlets are 3½ in. outside diameter with 6 threads per inch. Steamer outlets are 5⅞ in. outside diameter with 7 threads per inch. They are inspected during the winter months and are oiled and serviced at least annually. They were found to be in good condition at time of inspection. **Pressures:** Recording gauge at pumping station at Laurel Springs at about elevation 84 showed pressures to be fairly well maintained between 36 and 43 pounds. Readings taken at 3 well distributed hydrants showed pressures ranging from 25 to 40 pounds with an average of 32 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on March 26th, 1940 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

White Horse Pike and Crestwood Ave., 365—25—9.

Somerdale Ave. and Warrick Rd., 291—31—*.

* No reading taken.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of two companies under partial control of the borough which owns pumping engines and appropriated \$700 for the support of the companies in 1942. Companies own their quarters and chemical equipment. Total active membership about 30 divided between the two companies, of whom a minimum of 8 members are available at all times. Officers in each company consist of a chief, assistant chief, chief engineer, and second engineer. They are elected annually by the respective companies, but are not subject to confirmation by borough. **Companies—Somerdale Fire Company No. 1:** Membership 20. Located on White Horse Pike at Cedar Avenue as shown on map. Building is a one-story frame structure in fair condition with composition covered wood roof, wood floor, hot

air heat, electric lights, and siren on roof. No telephone installed. **Equipment:** One 1927 Hale 500-g.p.m. double combination pumping engine carrying 950 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and meager minor equipment. One 1924 Brockway chemical car carrying two 30-gallon chemical tanks, one 40-gallon chemical tank, 300 feet of chemical hose, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. **Magnolia Heights Volunteer Fire Company No. 1:** Membership 10. Located on Park Avenue west of Harley Avenue as shown on map. Building is a one-story composition shingle covered frame structure with composition covered roof, wood floor, pipeless heater, electric lights, and electric siren. No telephone installed. **Equipment:** One 1927 Hale-Reo 350-g.p.m. double combination pumping engine carrying 200 feet of 2½-inch hose, one 35-foot extension ladder, and fair minor equipment. One 1929 Cadillac chemical and hose car carrying two 35-gallon chemical tanks, 200 feet of chemical hose, 2 short ladders, 250 feet of 1½-inch hose, and meager minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C. R. L. with Jones snap couplings. It is repacked occasionally at drills and subjected to test at normal pump operating pressures. No adequate drying facilities are provided. There is no serviceable reserve hose and most of the hose is more than 5 years old. **Operations:** Department is governed by company bylaws and incomplete borough ordinances. The respective chiefs have charge of equipment at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started weekly. There are from 4 to 6 appointed drivers and operators in each company. **Drills and Training:** Company drills are held monthly under the direction of the chief officers. They consist of pump operation, laying hose, and some ladder work. **Fire Methods:** Chemical extinguishers and small lines are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off nozzles. No salvage equipment or gas masks provided. **Response to Alarms:** The entire department responds to all borough alarms and one company is assigned to outside calls. Aid may be secured from Kirkwood, Magnolia, Stratford, and Laurel Springs, 2 to 3 miles distant. **Building Inspection:** Inspection by fire department is limited to an annual inspection of schools and other public buildings during Fire Prevention Week. **Records and Reports:** Records consist primarily of fire reports showing time and nature of alarm, location and extent of damage, and attendance. Monthly reports are filed with the mayor and council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Laurel Springs Exchange to homes or places of business of members nearby and sounded on siren at fire station by means of push button.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: There is no municipal police department. One special officer is subject to call and 6 auxiliary fire police are provided. No municipal vehicles.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 14th, 1937 provides for the annual appointment of a building inspector, requires that plans and specifications be filed and permits secured for building operations. The code embodies a few general requirements including foundation specifications and general construction requirements. Combustible roofs are prohibited except that reasonable repairs are allowed. No fire limits are established and the regulations are not sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint.

EXPLOSIVES AND FLAMMABLES: No local 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: None.