



BYRAM

**KEY**  
 PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.  
 Note.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.  
 Elevations range from 920 to 1,268 ft. above mean sea level.  
 Fire houses shown thus: +  
 Fire apparatus designated by symbols thus:  
 (E) Pumping engine and hose car  
 (C) Hose car  
 (B) Fire boat  
 (T) Booster tank or tanks on above

THE FIRE INSURANCE RATING  
 ORGANIZATION OF N. J.  
 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
 NEWARK 2, N. J.  
**Hopatcong Borough**  
 Sussex County, New Jersey  
 MAY 31, 1948



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## HOPATCONG BOROUGH, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. Including Brooklyn, Glasser, Hopatcong, Northwood, and Roseville.

Population—1940 Census—660. Estimated Summer Population—12,000.  
Estimated 1948 Permanent Population—850.

**IN GENERAL:** Located along the west side of Lake Hopatcong to the northeast of the D., L. & W. R. R. about 40 miles northwest of New York. Nearest railroad station is at Landing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south. It is mainly a summer resort with somewhat scattered dwellings ranging from light seasonal bungalows to substantial permanent residences and some hotels and boarding houses of inferior construction. No manufacturing with the exception of two small boat works employing about 6. Area about 10.8 square miles. Elevations range from 920 to 1,268 feet. Main thoroughfares are concrete or macadam in fair to good condition; other streets are part macadam and part gravel in fair to good condition. Grades are moderate to severe. No railroad crossings at grade. Principal features affecting the response and operations of the fire department are possible delays due to topography and adverse weather conditions during the winter months.

**WATER SUPPLY:** No public fire protection water supply system within the borough. Water supply for fire protection purposes is available at numerous locations along the lake shore to which dedicated fire lanes from the main road have been established and from which fire department pumping engines take suction. Fire lanes are maintained in good condition and provisions are made whereby they are plowed and kept clear during winter months. In some instances fire lane grades are severe, but conditions are such that access to the lake is available.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of two companies under the control of the borough which owns house, apparatus, and equipment and makes an annual appropriation of \$2,500 for the support of the department. Total active membership in the two companies 42, of whom a minimum of about 15 members are available at all times. Officers include a department chief and in each company an assistant chief, an engineer, and 2 foremen. Chief officer is appointed annually by the borough council upon recommendation of the fire companies. Other officers are elected annually by the companies and confirmed by the mayor and council. **Companies—Defiance Engine Company No. 3:** Active membership 30; minimum available 10. Located on River Styx Road northeast of Hopatcong Avenue as shown on map. Building is a 1-story stuccoed cinder block structure with composition shingled wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, oil-fired hot water heat, electric lights, and telephone. Siren installed on tower at rear. **Equipment:** One 1926 American La France 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 40-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, and fair minor equipment. One 1940 U.S.A. Type BF 750-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 800-gallon booster tank, 500 feet of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, 400 feet of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, 2 short ladders and some minor equipment. One 1929 Chevrolet hose car carrying 1,000 feet of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, 2 short ladders, and some minor equipment. **Northwood Engine Company No. 2:** Active membership 12; minimum available 5. Located in the Northwood section on Lakeside Avenue near Allendale Road as shown on map. Building is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story frame structure with composition shingled wood roof, wood and concrete apparatus floor, oil-fired steam heat, and electric lights. Telephone located in chief's house nearby and siren mounted on roof of boat house at that location. **Equipment:** One 1930 Ahrens-Fox 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 100-gallon booster tank, 400 feet of booster hose, 300 feet of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, 1,200 feet of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, 2 short ladders, and some minor equipment. One 1917 Packard chemical car carrying two 40-gallon chemical tanks, one 3-k.w. motor driven generator set, three 100-watt flood lights, 300 feet of chemical hose, and some minor equipment. One 36-foot gasoline powered fire boat equipped with two 500-g.p.m. O.C.D. type

skid pumps and deck gun, to be kept at boat house near fire station, was under construction at time of inspection. **Hose:** All  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. There was no reserve hose at time of inspection, but 1,000 feet of hose was on order and will be distributed so as to increase the quantity carried on the machines at Company No. 3 and the fire boat. Of the total supply all hose is more than 5 years old, but it is tested twice annually at 300 pounds. No drying facilities provided. **Operations:** Department is governed by borough ordinance under the supervision of the mayor and council. The chief officers have control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. **Drills and Training:** Company drills are held monthly under the direction of the chief officers. They consist of pump operation, and hose and ladder work. **Fire Methods:** Chemical and booster streams are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off nozzles where water supplies are available. Two all-service masks are provided in each company and one flood light set and one cellar distributor are provided. Salvage equipment and heavy stream appliances are lacking. **Response to Alarms:** Companies normally respond to alarms in their respective districts, but respond over the entire borough on notification by officer in charge. Fire boat will respond except during winter months on order of officer in charge. Outside aid may be secured from the surrounding volunteer departments at Jefferson Township, Mount Arlington Borough, Roxbury Township, Sparta Township, Netcong, and Stanhope. **Building Inspection:** No routine inspections by the fire department. Complaints are investigated, however, and fire department recommendations are made. **Records and Reports:** Records consist chiefly of fire reports including nature of alarm, attendance, and equipment used, together with a general report included in the secretary's minutes. **Fire Alarms:** Telephoned through the Mount Arlington Exchange to homes or places of business of members and officers and sounded on two sirens in the territory of Company No. 3 and on one siren in Company No. 2 from push buttons at distributed locations. In the Northwood section there is a single circuit fire alarm system of No. 10 hard drawn copper triple braided wire and No. 8 steel copper clad wire mounted on utility company poles. This system carries 15 sector pull boxes, and a Faraday relay panel, punch register, and gong in fire station. Current is supplied by a Westinghouse rectifier with ten 6-volt storage batteries floating. Battery equipment is located in a frame closet in fire station. Boxes are protected by Neon arresters. The system is in charge of the assistant chief. Boxes are tested twice each year by the assistant chief.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of a full-paid chief officer assisted by special officers subject to call. A patrol car is provided. Two way radio equipment is to be installed in patrol car with receiver in fire boat.

**BUILDING LAWS:** An incomplete building code provides for the appointment of a building inspector, requires permits for building construction and embodies some general regulations including requirements for fire stops and installation of heating appliances. A zoning ordinance regulates building locations and embodies some limits as to heating. The regulations do not establish fire limits nor prohibit combustible roof coverings, and in general they are not sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint.

**FIRE PREVENTION LAWS:** No municipal regulations. 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.