



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

**Woodcliff Lake Borough**  
**Bergen County, New Jersey**

AUGUST 15, 1946

H.W. Co. WESTERN RESERVOIR  
ELEV. OF OVERFLOW 277.47'  
CAP'Y 5,043,000 GALS

**KEY**  
PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.  
NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.  
Elevations range from 80 to 410 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  
○ Booster tank or tanks on above



# WOODCLIFF LAKE BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—1,037.

**IN GENERAL:** Located on the N. Y. & N. J. R. R. about 24 miles north of Jersey City. It is a scattered residential and agricultural community with no manufacturing. Area about 3.8 square miles. Elevations range from 80 to 410 feet. Main thoroughfares and streets in developed portions are improved and in good condition; other outlying streets are dirt in fair condition.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is obtained from the Borough of Park Ridge as an extension of the municipally owned distribution system in that municipality. The Borough of Woodcliff Lake owns its distribution system which is maintained and operated by the Park Ridge Water Department. The system was installed in 1931 and the supply is delivered through 8-inch and 6-inch unmetered connections at the borough limits. For detailed information regarding organization, supply works, distribution system, and hazards see report on Park Ridge with map No. 275. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of 6-inch and 8-inch incomplete gridiron and dead end mains segregated to comprise individual distribution systems on either side of Woodcliff Lake. See map and description above. **Consumption:** The average daily consumption in the entire territory served during 1945 was 0.22 million gallons, of which an average daily rate of 0.03 million gallons was used in Woodcliff Lake. It is estimated that the maximum daily consumption in the entire territory served and in Woodcliff Lake is 0.33 million gallons and 0.045 million gallons respectively. At time of inspection there were 873 services in the entire territory served, all of which are metered and of which there are 196 in Woodcliff Lake. **Pipe:** All cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 4½-foot cover. Total length, 35,600 feet; 28.0% 8-inch, 72.0% 6-inch. No serious trouble reported from frozen mains nor electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 21 on the distribution system in Woodcliff Lake of Eddy make set with valve boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform. No complete regular inspection practice. **Hydrants:** There are 59 on the system in Woodcliff Lake of Eddy make of standard type with one 4½-inch and two 2½-inch outlets and 6-inch gated branches. Outlets are National Standard. Hydrants are inspected annually and flushed quarterly and at time of inspection they were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Pressure gauge at pumping station at elevation 112 shows about 135 pounds. Readings taken at 5 well distributed hydrants showed pressures ranging from 50 to 146 with an average of 120 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on April 27th, 1931 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Summit and Central Aves., 1,870—140—85

Summit and Columbus Aves., 1,170—140—60.

Prospect Ave. W of Magnolia Ave., 780—102—49.

Pascack Rd. 650 ft N. of Edward St., 729—146—18.

Woodcliff Heights and Glen Rds., 408—54—13.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of one company under the partial control of the municipality which owns apparatus, equipment, and quarters and appropriated \$2,300 for the support of the department during 1946. Total active membership 30 including a chief, 2 assistant chiefs, 2 captains, 2 lieutenants, and a mechanic, of whom a minimum of 10 members are available during the day and normal night response is about 24 members. Officers are elected annually by the company and confirmed by the mayor and council. **Company—Woodcliff Lake Volunteer Fire Company:** Located on Pascack Road north of Woodcliff Avenue as shown on map. Building is a 1-story brick and cement block structure with slate covered wood roof on unprotected steel, concrete apparatus floor, electric lights, hot water heat, telephone, and siren on tower at rear. **Equipment:** One 1927

Reo 350-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 150-gallon booster tank, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, and some minor equipment. One 1940 Buffalo 600-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 150-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, one 1½-k.w. flood light generator, 3 flood lights, and fairly complete minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. There are no adequate drying provisions. Hose is shifted in part after use. There is a total supply of 2,300 feet, of which 500 feet is kept in reserve. Of the total supply 1,000 feet is more than 5 years old. Hose is tested in part at drills at normal pump operating pressures. **Operations:** The department is governed by municipal ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started daily and 3 police officers and 2 other members and the mechanic are designated as drivers. All department officers also drive apparatus. **Drills and Training:** Company drills, consisting of pump operation, hose and ladder work, and use of apparatus, are held monthly and in addition the department participates in a local drill school operated under an experienced paid officer. **Fire Methods:** Hand extinguishers, booster streams, and 1½-inch lines are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off nozzles. Flood light equipment, gas masks, salvage covers, and fog nozzles are provided, but heavy stream appliances are lacking. **Response to Alarms:** All apparatus responds to local alarms except to small fires of known extent to which one piece of apparatus is assigned. Substantial aid may be secured from the surrounding volunteer departments at Park Ridge, Hillsdale, Westwood, Saddle River Borough, Montvale, and Washington Township. **Building Inspection:** No regular building inspections by the fire department. **Records and Reports:** Chief maintains a fairly complete log book of fires and files complete fire reports including attendance, nature of alarms, equipment used, and the extent of damage. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Park Ridge Central Office to the municipal building where desk watch is maintained except for short periods during which watch is maintained at the home of chief officer near fire station where there is an extension to the police desk phone. Alarms are sounded either from the municipal building or receiving point by means of push buttons controlling the siren.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of 4 officers, 2 of whom work 9-hour shifts and one is subject to call and one is assigned to communications and desk watch at the municipal building. One radio patrol car, operating in conjunction with the county police radio system at Hackensack, is provided.

**BUILDING LAWS:** Code adopted March 14th, 1927 provides for the annual appointment of a building committee of three members, and empowers the borough authorities to designate a building inspector to serve at their pleasure. It requires the filing of plans and specifications and the securing of permits for building operations. Code contains a few good features with regard to party walls, heating apparatus, chimneys, and means of egress from buildings, but it is not sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint. No fire or combustible roof limits are established.

**FIRE PREVENTION LAWS:** Local regulations are limited to an ordinance requiring permits for the burning of combustible materials and authorizing inspections by the fire committee which is empowered to correct hazardous conditions. Regulations are not sufficiently complete from a fire protection standpoint. 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.