

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

West Wildwood Borough
Cape May County, New Jersey

MAY 31, 1949

KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.

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

Elevations range from 0 to 5 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) *Pumping engine and hose car*

(B) *Booster tank or tanks on above*

WEST WILDWOOD BOROUGH, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—146. Present Estimate—300. Summer Estimate—3,500.

IN GENERAL: Located on Grassy Sound about one mile northwest of the center of Wildwood. It is primarily a summer resort consisting of about 500 small frame dwellings with 20-foot to 100-foot separation, about 50% of which have wood shingle roofs and about 10% of which are occupied year-round. Area about 0.25 square mile. Elevations range from 0 to 5 feet. Roads are macadam and cinders in fair to good condition.

WATER SUPPLY: The borough owns and operates the distribution system supplying water for domestic and fire protection purposes, and purchases its supply from the adjoining City of Wildwood. The Wildwood supply is delivered through a 6-inch connection at Glenwood and Lake Avenues in Wildwood at which location there is a 6-inch meter and by-pass which connects with a 6-inch main extending through the center of the borough to supply a 6-inch and 4-inch loop and two short 4-inch dead ends. For a description of the Wildwood supply works and appurtenances see report with map No. 228. **Organization:** The system is under the control of the mayor and council and is maintained by a part-time water superintendent who also serves as plumbing inspector. Extensions and repairs are made by outside help as needed. Records are very incomplete and there is no accurate detailed distribution map. **Distribution System:** In one service as described above. See map. **Consumption:** The average daily consumption during 1948 was 0.059 million gallons. The maximum daily consumption is estimated to be 0.13 million gallons. At the time of inspection there were 450 services, none of which is metered. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3-foot cover. Total length, 11,350 feet; 81.8% 6-inch and 18.2% 4-inch. No recent trouble reported from frozen mains or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 10 on the system of Ludlow and Mueller makes set with valve boxes at grade. Direction of operation is not uniform. No inspection practice established. **Hydrants:** There are 12 on the system in West Wildwood of Ludlow and Mueller makes of standard type with 4-inch gated branches. Eight have one 4½-inch and two 2½-inch outlets, and four have one 4½-inch and one 2½-inch outlet. The 2½-inch outlets have Jones snap fittings and the large outlets are National Standard. Hydrants are inspected and operated each month by the fire department and were found to be in fair to poor condition at time of inspection. **Pressures:** No recording gauge on the system in West Wildwood, but readings taken at 5 well distributed hydrants showed pressures of about 38 pounds throughout the borough. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on April 5, 1949 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Glenwood and Neptune Aves., 290—39—7.
Pine and Neptune Aves., 240—38—*.
Poplar and Bay Aves., 290—39—*.
Pine and Arion Aves., 120—37—2.5.
Pine and "E" Aves., 220—37—*.

*No reading taken.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under control of the borough which owns quarters, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated $1,000 for the support of the department during 1948. Total active membership 22, of whom a minimum of 12 members are available at all times. Company officers normally include a chief, who is elected annually by the company and confirmed by the mayor and council, one assistant elected annually but not confirmed, and a captain and 2 lieutenants who are appointed by the chief of the department. **Company:** Located in borough hall at Glenwood and Neptune Avenues as shown on map. Building is a 2-story brick structure with slag roof, concrete apparatus floor, electric lights, hot air heat, siren, and telephone. **Equipment:** A 1949 Mack 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 300-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 400 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and meager minor equipment. A 1927 Hale-Reo 300-g.p.m. double combination pumping engine carrying 850 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and some minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with Jones snap couplings. There is a total supply of 850 feet of serviceable 2½-inch hose, all of which is carried on the apparatus. No hose is over 5 years old. Hose is tested at 90 pounds at drills and is repacked at least monthly. **Operations:** Department is governed by borough ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. All members of department drive and operate apparatus. Two engineers are appointed and motors are started daily. **Drills and Training:** Company drills are held weekly under the supervision of the chief officers. They consist of pump operation, hose laying, and some ladder work. **Fire Methods:** Hand extinguishers and booster streams are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off and open nozzles. Gas masks, salvage equipment, special fittings, and heavy stream appliances are lacking and nozzle equipment is in poor condition. **Response to Alarms:** The department responds to all local alarms, and substantial aid is available from the part-paid and volunteer department at Wildwood and from the volunteer departments at North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest. **Building Inspection:** No routine inspections by the fire department. The chief investigates complaints. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete fire records are kept and annual reports are filed with the chairman of the fire committee. **Fire Alarms:** Fire alarms are telephoned through the Wildwood Central Office to the home of the chief of police and sounded from fire station on a siren mounted on roof.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a full-time borough police chief. No municipally owned car is provided, but the chief uses his private vehicle.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 18, 1922 by the City of Wildwood is said to be in force in the borough although not formally adopted. It provides for the appointment of a building inspector and embodies some structural requirements, but does not establish fire limits nor prohibit the use of combustible roofs. In general the regulations are entirely inadequate from a fire protection standpoint.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: No local regulations. The state laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives, the transportation of flammable liquids, and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

ZONING ORDINANCE: None.