

FARM LABOR CAMP, CALDWELL UNIT

PROJECT: LC-36

FIRE AND SAFETY REPORT - AUGUST 18, 1950

Construction of the physical plant and water supply is detailed in the maintenance report for this project:

WATER SUPPLY, DISTRIBUTION & FIRE FLOW

Steel storage tank capacity 35,000 gallons on 70 foot steel tower erected on highest ground of camp. Water Mains are size 6 inch supply mains to two 4 and 3½ inch distribution systems. There are 18 four inch, one-way fire hydrants with 2½" NST outlets, frost proof shut-offs and drains with street valves. The sub-standard size distribution mains seriously impedes required fire flow for size and class of the two largest wood frame non-dwelling structures. Supply source and storage rating is very good.

Fire flow was determined as follows:

<u>Static Pressure</u>	<u>Fire Flow</u>	<u>Residual Pressure</u>
38 PSI	4 PSI from 2½" open port 272 Gallons per minute	5.5 PSI

The above indicated fire flow furnishes one good underwriter rated fire stream. If and when funds are available two size 5 inch, 2 way and fire pumper connection fire hydrants could be strategically installed on the two existing 6 inch supply mains and obtain underwriter approved fire flow for the size and class of the two major fire risk structures. Cost for materials and labor would not exceed \$600.00

Fire separation of structures at this project rate Good.

Evaluation as a Fire Risk:

Except the Community Activities and Utility Comfort Station buildings, and also not considering the large wood frame structures of the poultry and dairy farm extension, the balance of the structures of this camp may be considered a Fair Fire Risk.

When recommendations with this report for organization of a volunteer fire brigade is implemented, the above rating should be considered for upgrading to Good.

FIRE PROTECTION

1. Organized and first aid fire fighting protection, presently existent at this camp rates poor.
2. All existent hand fire extinguishers should be cleaned inside and out, rubber hoses and nozzles, examined and/or replaced if needed, and all

extinguishers should be recharged. All extinguishers should be tagged, new date of charging indicated, together with initials of employee who performed recharging, each extinguisher must be inspected once each month; recharge each extinguisher annually.

3. There are four two wheel type hand hose reels in service in four locations of the camp; each is loaded with 300 feet of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch single jacket fire hose and each with a play pipe nozzle and hydrant wrench.
4. The above fire hose and nozzles are in fair condition, the hydrant wrenches are in poor condition. The fire hose and equipment is inadequately protected from weather and tampering by unauthorized persons.
5. There is a local electric fire alarm system in the camp connected to a central fire siren. By pushing an electric solenoid switch at the gate house and the four fire hose stations the fire alarm is sounded. This device was determined to be in good operating condition. Procedures to call for the rural fire truck in Caldwell (6 miles distant) are not posted - organization and stated drill periods are non-existent; one telephone should be available 24 hours per day, every day as an emergency phone for calling the Caldwell Fire Department or for other emergencies.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Early adoption and training features outlined in "Table of Contents" - Housing Managers' Manual, PHA, 5-10-50, Sections 6446:1-2-4 and Exhibit 1; and also the supplemented factors outlined in Bulletin 63, PHA, Section 10.01 are suggested as guides for better organization, fire prevention, and protection program. One copy of Pamphlet No. 27, National Board of Fire Underwriters suggestions for the organization, drilling and equipment of "PRIVATE FIRE BRIGADES" is included with this report. Suggestions outlined should have early attention of Camp Management. A minimum of four fire hose teams each with four or more members is suggested for this camp.
2. The fire chief and fire department of Caldwell should be invited to make infrequent surveys of the camp; test the water supply, survey all roads and major buildings, and to make suggestions and recommendations for needed improvements of fire prevention and protection. When possible a fire drill participated in by the members of the camp fire brigade and a Caldwell fire truck and crew is suggested.
3. One at a time, remove the fire hose from each hose cart, separate all hose couplings, remove swivel gaskets and wire brush all threads and swivels, use a few drops of light oil in back of each swivel coupling; if needed obtain and install new coupling gaskets. Arrange to have the Caldwell Fire Department test all sections of the fire hose at the Caldwell Fire Station at not to exceed 100 PSI, and if needed repair or recouple the hose. Promptly return all hose reels to service - repeat this procedure

annually. On reloading the hose reels, care should be exercised to avoid loose loops such as are presently dragging on the ground; when fully loaded the reels should be rotated past the center of gravity and secured with a rope to prevent unreeling and dragging the hose and couplings on the ground such as presently exists.

4. Fabricate and hinge a wood door with hasp and eye bolt fastener to be held in closed position with a box car seal on the front of each fire hose house in service. Leave a six inch open space under each door for ventilation; post "No Trespassing" signs on the doors - be sure all fire brigade members know how to open the doors.
5. Obtain and securely install on each hose cart one hexagon adjustable screw handle hydrant (4) wrench; one such wrench should also be conveniently placed in the home of the camp caretaker for his response to fire alarms. The existing fire hose nozzles presently in service on the hose carts are sub-standard; needed corrections and/or replacements should be on the advice of the Caldwell Fire Chief, tips are missing off the ends of the nozzles.

#### SAFETY

The traffic slow-down troughs in the driveways should not be permitted to fill up with gravel. Because of hazard to school children, signs "School Zone" - speed 15 miles per Hour, are needed on the driveway passing the Community Building.

Approved type "Safety Top Cans" only, should be used for gasoline holders for fueling gaspowered mowers and farm equipment. It is suggested that the so-called "Jeep" cans with flexible spout and flame arrester screens at the outer end are approved by the Underwriters. Usually these cans may be purchased at surplus stores.

Arthur P. Gough  
Maintenance Engineer

Attachment 1  
Underwriter Private Fire Brigade

September 8, 1951

Public Housing Administration  
San Francisco Field Office  
1360 Mission Street  
San Francisco 3, California

Attention: Operations and Engineering

Gentlemen:

The following is a report of "Fire Fighting Equipment on Caldwell Farm Labor Camp LC-36".

(a) Inventory of equipment and appraisal of operating efficiency:

	<u>Total</u>	Excellent	<u>Condition</u>			
			Good	Poor	Inoperable	
Fire Hydrants 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	23	19			4	
Fire Hose	1100 ft.		550	250	300	
Hose Carts	5			5		Are Operable
Fire Stations	5		5			
Hose Nozzles	6	6				
1 qt. Extinguishers	25			25		Located at Alternate Homes
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ qt. Extinguishers	7			7		Located at Garages
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. Acid & Soda Extinguishers	30		15	4	11	Located at non-dwelling units
Electric Siren with controls at each fire station and at central office	1	1				

(b) Since there are no plans or specifications established by the Department of Agriculture available, the following additional needs are suggested based on the recommendation of the local Fire Department:

- (1) The four inoperable fire hydrants be replaced.
- (2) Procure 950 feet more hose so as to have a minimum of 300 feet at each fire station.

(3) Procure 5- 1qt. and 3-1½ qt. hand extinguishers.

(c) Fire hose was tested 7-8-51, against nozzle pressure and on 9-6-51, it was tested under 40 lbs. pressure for five minutes.

(d) The fire extinguishers were last inspected and charged in January 1948, however they will be inspected and charged again next week.

This Authority is in the process of negotiating with the Caldwell Rural Fire Prevention District for an agreement to include the Caldwell Farm Labor Camp in the district. At this writing the Fire Prevention district fire fighting equipment is answering all calls from the camp. Their equipment consists of the following: one 500 gallon pumper, with 1000 feet of 2½" hose and 300 feet of 1½" hose, siamese, and one fireman. There is 3½ miles of paved surface road between the fire station and the labor camp.

If the equipment, which this Authority requested is approved the above agreement will not, of course, be necessary.

Yours truly,

Telpher E. Wright  
Executive - Director

TEW:mc

Public Housing Administration  
 San Francisco Field Office  
 1360 Mission Street  
 San Francisco 3, California.

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- (2) Procure 950 ft. moore hose so as to have a minimum of 300ft. at each fire station.
- (3) Procure 5 1 qt. and 3-1½ qt. hard extinguisher.

(c) Fire hose was tested 7-8-51 against nozzle pressure and on Sept. 6, 51 it was tested under 40 lbs. pressure for five minutes.

last

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Your  
 J. C. W.

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY  
PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

(70)

~~NATIONAL HOUSING AGENCY~~

~~FEDERAL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY~~

~~WASHINGTON~~

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD OFFICE  
1360 Mission Street  
San Francisco 3, California

August 20, 1951

In reply please refer to  
SFFO:Operations Engineering

Telpher E. Wright, Executive Director  
Housing Authority of the City of Caldwell  
819 Main Street  
Caldwell, Idaho

Dear Mr. Wright:

Fire Fighting Equipment on  
Caldwell Farm Labor Camp LC-36

We find no record of a reply to our letter of July 2, 1951, above subject.

Please check up on this matter at your earliest convenience, as the Central Office is pressing for an answer on the overall picture.

Sincerely yours,

*Stanton Foster*

for J. G. MELVILLE  
Director

*M. W. K.*



HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY  
PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD OFFICE  
1360 Mission Street  
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Sincerely yours,

J. G. MELVILLE  
Director





Talpher E. Wright - 2

- Jan 1951
- (d) Date of most recent refilling of fire extinguishers. (Most fire extinguishers must be recharged annually).
  - (e) A statement of the basis on which volunteer fire fighting efforts are organized to insure familiarity with the equipment, operating requirements, and adequate camp coverage at all hours.

An immediate response to this request for information, addressed to this Field Office, attention of Charles E. Mayette, Chief Operations Engineering Section, will be very much appreciated. Central Office Public Housing Administration has directed that we assemble and forward not later than July 12, 1951 all fire protection equipment and organized facilities reports on Farm Labor Camps.

This letter is being issued to insure clarification and avoid misunderstanding and to confirm and/or supplement, as the case may be, any and all prior verbal or written instructions received from Public Housing Administration, and is not intended to call for a duplication of work if already completed on any of the survey details called for in subparagraphs 1 (a) to 1 (e), inclusive.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. MELVILLE  
Field Director

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY  
PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

70

1360 Mission Street  
San Francisco 3, California

July 2, 1951

In reply please refer to  
SFHO:Operations Engineering

Telpher E. Wright, Executive Director  
Housing Authority of Caldwell  
819 Main Street  
Caldwell, Idaho

Fire Fighting Equipment on  
Caldwell Farm Labor Camp IC-36

Dear Mr. Wright:

The Central Office expects to develop a procedure which will require inspection of the fire fighting equipment and a survey of Farm Labor Camp property for fire hazards at regularly established intervals. As a prerequisite of such procedure an initial report has been requested by Washington, D. C.; which report shall include the following information:

- (a) A complete inventory of all fire fighting equipment within each camp area, together with an appraisal of its operating efficiency, i.e., excellent, good, poor, or inoperable, as the case may be. In the case of a report that determines a "poor" category, it will mean that the equipment still retains some usability but should be replaced. Explanatory notes should be included as may be deemed necessary to completely clarify the situation.
- (b) A listing of shortages of equipment based on, (a) that which was originally established for the center during its operation by the Department of Agriculture, or (b) if the original plans and/or specifications are not available, an estimate of the minimum equipment needs may be substituted, accompanied by the method of determination which was used in arriving at the estimate.
- (c) Date of the most recent operating test of the fire hose and allied equipment. This includes checking all fire hydrants to make sure that valves are working and in good condition. (Fire hose to be tested under a pressure of not less than 40 lbs. for a period of at least five minutes and all fire hydrant valves should be fully opened).

July 5!

