



SDMS DocID

246694

Superfund Record Center

SITE: AEROVOX

FILE: 222

OTHER: 246694

Site Information and Preplan

For

Box 2261

AEROVOX PLANT 'A'

Belleville Ave & Hadley St

Prepared by

DC Michael Gomes

January 7, 2005

New Bedford Fire Department Aerovox Preplan

The following fire plan has been developed with information recently gathered from the site. The abandoned Aerovox facility located at the corner of Hadley St. & Belleville Ave. presents a number of hazards to the members of the New Bedford Fire Department. These hazards include chemical contamination, the poor physical condition of the building and a large fire load. The security at this plant is being upgraded but vandals and copper thieves have had the run of the plant. The fire doors have recently been found to be tied in the open position and cannot be counted on to limit the spread of fire through the facility. Large amounts of ordinary combustibles litter the site and will provide ample fuel to start multiple fires. Due to the lack of active fire suppression systems any fires at this facility can be expected to become a major incident. Soon a new heat detector alarm system will be completed, and it will provide early warning of fire incidents. This work should be completed in the near future.

The Building

The Aerovox facility located on the corner of Belleville Ave. & Hadley St. is an abandoned industrial site located on the banks of the Acushnet River. The facility consists of a single mill construction building 800 feet in length and up to 3 stories in height. Its owners have abandoned the building and the city has been appointed as caretaker of the site. The building can be divided into 2 distinct sections, a 3-story flat roof section, and a 2-story saw tooth roof section. These 2 sections are divided by a firewall with openings protected by fire doors on each floor. The building is in fair to poor condition due to water leaks, vandalism and large amounts of abandoned materials in the building. The floors are buckled throughout the facility due to water damage and in the dark will be a trip hazard. There are elevator shafts in the 3-story section that may not be protected and may present a fall hazard.

Fire Protection

At this time the facility has very limited fire protection systems. The sprinkler system has been repaired and drained of all water. The system will be kept dry. In the event of a fire the system will be activated through the use of the post indicator valves (See Fire plan B). This will allow any fires to be suppressed remotely from the outside of the structure. A new heat detector system is being installed to provide early warning of fire incidents. This system should be on line by the end of February. The fire doors have been tied in the open position, adding to the fire problem. These doors will be fixed in the closed position to ensure the integrity of the firewall.

Security

Vandals have gained access to the building and are stripping copper and other materials from the building. There also have been signs of repeated vandalism and damage to the building and its systems. It appears that the vandals have been leaving the elevator and fire doors in the open position. There are also large amounts of ordinary combustible materials available throughout the building in easily ignitable form. In the near future the buildings exterior will be secured and a new security system will be completed to prevent unauthorized access to the structure. The security improvements should be completed by the end of February.

Contamination

The E.P.A. has recently completed a program to identify and remove all left over chemicals from the site. The facility still has large areas of the building that are contaminated with PCB's from the manufacturing process. These areas are located inside the saw tooth section of the building and are located on the first and second floors (see floor plan A). The area is known on the site plans as the impregnation room. This site has the highest levels of PCB contamination. The PCB contamination has soaked into the floors and onto most surfaces in this area. The contamination extends out from this room approximately 30' beyond the room and should not be entered for any reason without proper P.P.E. and effective decon. This area also has active asbestos contamination from asbestos lined vats that are deteriorating. Air currents through out this room are spreading the asbestos. The PCB contamination has also passed through the floor into the first floor into an area known on the site plan as the pump room/oil storage area. This contamination has passed into the concrete and soil in this area. There are no clear markings for the areas of contamination and it is recommended that Nbfd personnel do not enter these areas identified on this plan for any reason. The entire facility has significant amounts of asbestos. It is for the most part in good shape and contained at this time. In the case of a fire it will represent a significant hazard during and after suppression activities. Also copper bandits have started to strip the facility and this may impact on the condition of the asbestos in the near future. All areas of the 3-story section of the building have had all other hazardous materials removed.

Utilities

The Electrical system is still in service. Power and lighting are on throughout the building. There are also electric motors and equipment that are still energized and could present a shock hazard. The electrical system is being secured at this time. This work will be completed after the sprinkler and alarm systems are brought back on line.

Access

The saw tooth roof section is located closest to Belleville Ave. It is 2 stories in height and can be accessed through the company offices entrance on Belleville Ave. Entry through this entrance will place you on the second floor of the facility. Entry beyond the office area is not recommended due to chemical contamination (see site plan A). The firewall is located where the saw tooth meets the 3-story mill section. There are multiple openings in this firewall that are all equipped with fire doors. As stated before, they have recently been found to be blocked in the open position and may be of little value.

Access to the 3-story mill section can be gained through the entrance next to the master box, half way down on the Hadley St. side. The master box is located outside of the security office. This office will be the location of the new fire and security alarm systems. This entrance leads to the first floor or basement of the facility. From this level and to the left is the firewall, again a barrier through which no one should pass through due to chemical contamination (see report). The elevator shafts for this facility are located midway down the south side of the 3 story section. The hoist way doors were found in the open position and present a fall hazard. At this time these are the only open shafts that have been identified.

Fire Plan

Due to the conditions present at this site we can expect significant fire on arrival. The key to limiting the scope of any incidents at this site will be to remotely activate the sprinkler system and to position companies to contain any fires to one section of the plant. To accomplish this goal we must defend against extension of the fire beyond the firewall between the sections of the plant. Due to the hazards present, the use of interior crews would not be advisable except for fires of a very limited size. The physical positioning of the building, its chemical contamination, and its exposures will present serious problems. By fighting the fire defensively with master streams and the remote sprinkler system we should be able to contain any fires while decreasing the risk to our personnel.

Water supply

The water supply in the area should be adequate with the following hydrants, all rated for 1,000-1,500 GPM (see Fire Plan C).

4 hydrants located within 300' of the building on Belleville Ave. (48" main).

4 Hydrants on Graham St. with mains of 8"-12"

4 hydrants located on Howard Ave. and River Rd. (8" main).

The Hadley St. side of the plant has a number of private hydrants, but the flow capacity and reliability of these hydrants is in question. Also the sprinkler system and the Titleist plant to the south share this main for their sprinklers. This will require the use of large diameter hose to supply companies on this side of the building. There are no Fire Department Connections at this plant and the fire supply main for the building comes in from Belleville Ave. just to the North of the Offices.

Exposures

Side B: On the Belleville Ave. side the exposures consist of a number of multifamily wood frame structures. These structures are on the west side of Belleville Ave. and are approximately 60' - 70' from the plant. Due to the distance involved, the prevailing winds, and the fact that this portion of the plant is the lowest in height, these exposures should be easily protected.

Side C: On the Graham St. side the exposure consists of the Precix plant. This plant consists of a sprinkler protected multi-story industrial building of various types of construction. This building is only 40' away from the Aerovox plant and has a combustibile roof. The protection of this active industrial plant shall provide a number of challenges and should be considered our #1 priority.

Side D: This side of the plant has no exposures to protect.

Side A: On the Hadley St. side the exposure consists of the Titleist plant. This is a 3-story sprinkler protected mill construction building. Due to the prevailing winds and the fact that this plant is located over 120 feet away, the exposure problem may be less of a concern than side B or side C. The roof of this structure is combustibile and burning brands will be a concern.

First Alarm Response to major fire

The placement of apparatus to defend the firewall and exposures B, C and A will be the strategic goal of this plan. In particular, aerial apparatus should be positioned to cover the firewall and combustibile roofs of exposure C and A. The first engine & ladder should approach by Hadley St. and gain access to the property through the gate on side A. Upon confirmation of a fire condition the incident commander should direct personnel to activate the sprinkler system. The system should be activated zone by zone from the fire location outward to contain fire spread to the area of origin.

First ladder or quint

The first on scene ladder company should take "fire position #1" (See Fire plan C) to cover the area where the saw tooth roof joins the firewall. This position will allow the aerial to cover portions of both sections of the facility.

First engine

The first on scene engine company should take "fire position #5 or #6", depending on fire location. This position will allow the use of master streams and hand lines for fire attack (See Fire plan C).

Second engine

The second on scene engine company should lay a feed line from the first due ladder or quint and precede right on Belleville Ave. to the hydrant in the middle of the block (800'). This position will leave Hadley St. open for other apparatus to gain access and also allow the engine to cover Exposure B (See Fire plan C).

Third engine

The third on scene engine company should lay a feed line to the first engine and proceed to the hydrant at the corner of Hadley & Belleville Ave. (800'). This position will allow fire attack and coverage of exposure B (See Fire plan C)

Second Alarm Companies

Second ladder or quint

The second on scene ladder company should take "fire position #2" (See Fire plan C), to cover the area where the saw tooth roof joins the firewall and exposure C. This apparatus should be placed as close to the Precix plant as possible to stay out of the collapse zone. Due to the fact that the area of greatest PCB contamination is in this location, care should be exercised so as not to place NBFD personnel in areas of smoke.

Fourth engine

The fourth on scene engine company should lay a feed from "fire position 2" to the hydrant on the corner of Graham St. (200'). This position allows coverage of both Exposure B and C, and also fire attack (See Fire plan C).

Third ladder or quint

The third on scene ladder company should take "fire position #3" and get their own feed line from the hydrant on Graham St. (100'). This position will allow fire attack and coverage of exposure C (See Fire plan C). This will probably be Quint 5. If Quint 5 is not available, an engine will be needed for water supply.

Third Alarm

Fourth ladder or quint

The fourth on scene ladder company should take "fire position #4". This position will allow coverage of the roof of exposure C (See Fire plan C).

Fifth engine

The fifth on scene engine company should lay a feed line to fire position #4 and provide a water supply from the hydrant at Howard & River Rd. (200') (See Fire plan C).

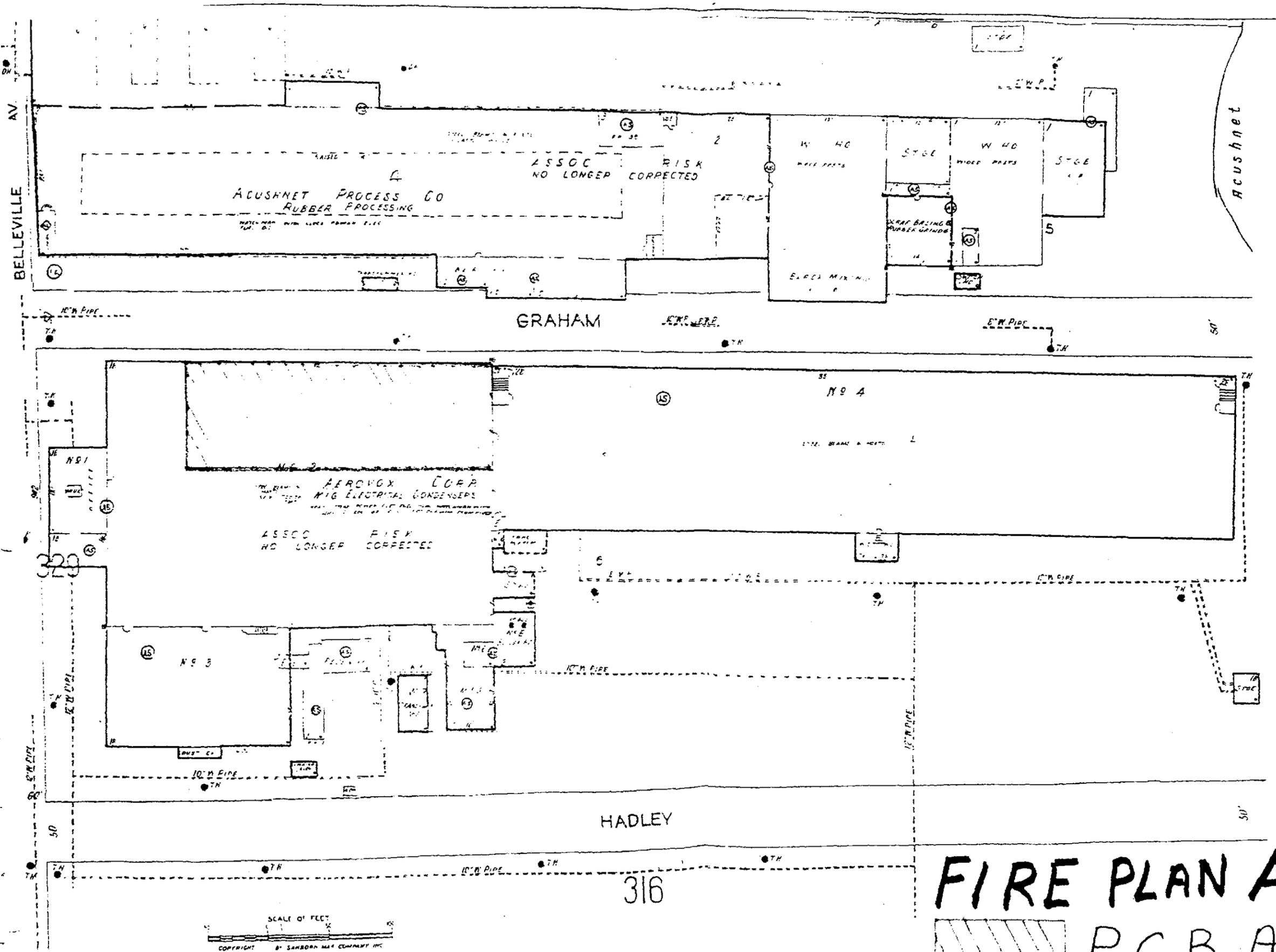
Mutual Aid Companies

Mutual aid companies should be used at the discretion of the incident commander, but will possibly be needed to cover the roof of exposure A.

Staging Area

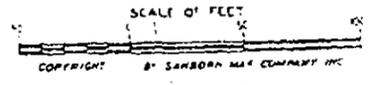
The parking lot of Precix on Howard Ave. can be used as a staging area with access from Howard Ave. and River Rd. (See Fire plan C).

This plan is meant as a starting point and a strategic plan for the operation. The incident and conditions on arrival shall dictate the placement of apparatus and the tactical objectives needed. The plan does not name specific apparatus to perform specific assignments due to the possibility of the unavailability of that apparatus at the time of alarm.



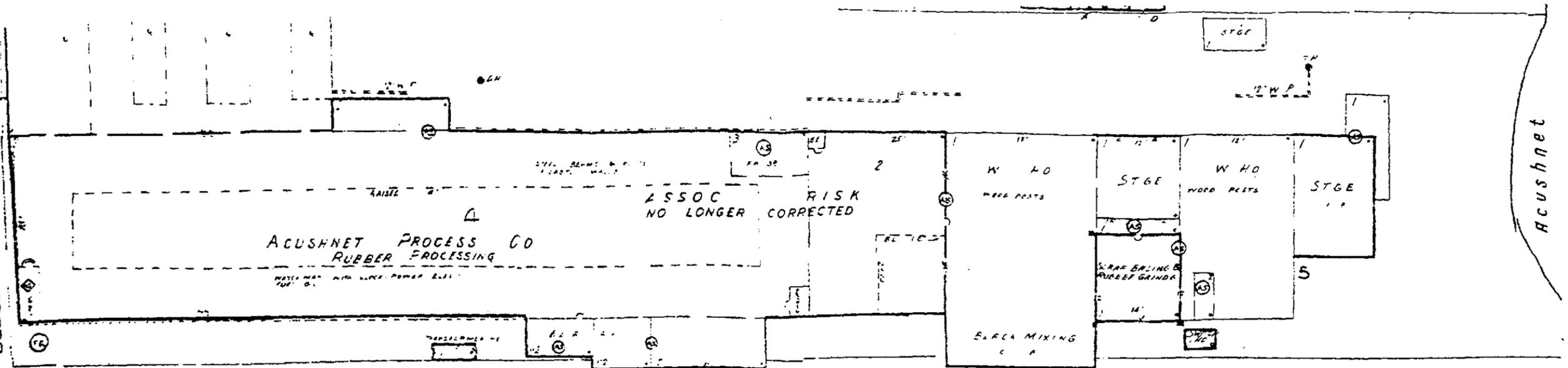
316

FIRE PLAN A
 P.C.B. AREA

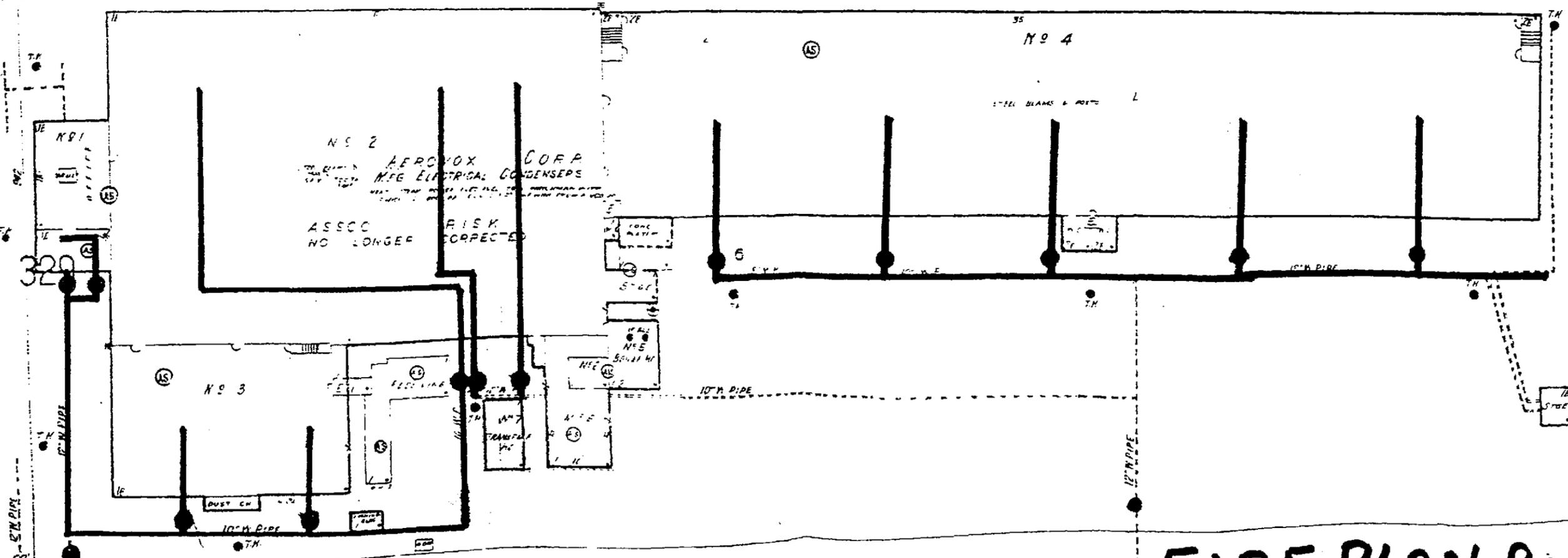


BELLEVILLE AV.

Acushnet



GRAHAM



HADLEY

FIRE PLAN B
♦ P.I.V.

316

● City Hydrant 1,000-1,500 GPM

● Yard Hydrant Flow Unknown

■ Engine Company 150' Master Stream

■ Ladder Company 200' Master Stream

--- Feed Line

▨ Staging Area

EXPOSURE B

