

Jet fuel pipeline ruptured

A jet fuel line running along the Staten Island Expressway service road was ruptured this morning at Victory Boulevard and North Gannon Avenue in Willowbrook.

Residents in the area were evacuated as police, fire and environmental officials raced to the area to shut the geyser down.

Initial reports indicated that a contractor working in the area broke the line. The line is thought to be only four or five feet deep in some areas.

The line runs from Linden, N.J., to LaGuardia and Kennedy airports and carries jet fuel.

In September 1979, someone attempted to illegally tap into the pipeline, causing about 40,000 gallons of fuel to seep out. Two months later, Mayor Koch ordered the Buckeye Pipeline Co., who own the fuel line, to undertake an eight-point safety improvement program.

The program included a requirement that Buckeye employees make frequent patrols of the pipeline.