



S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns

Police direct traffic along a barricaded section of Victory Boulevard, Willowbrook.

the repairs would cost at least \$10,000.

Lombardi said gas may have also lodged on the cedar-wood exterior of the two buildings, but said he did not think the damage would push back the unit's scheduled opening date. The studio and one-bedroom condominium units are scheduled to open in November or December, Lombardi said.

The two condominium developers, Lloyd Fetner and Morton Meltzer, inspected the units Tuesday, Lombardi said. They were unavailable for comment yesterday.

While the Victory Boulevard cleanup continued yesterday, officials from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) visited the leak site for the second straight day. Michael Carnavo, the agency's acting area director, said OSHA wanted to make sure employees working near the site were being adequately protected.

"We generally found procedures were being followed," he said. "On any incident of that type we send a compliance officer."

Meanwhile, Haase explained Buckeye's version of the events preceding the leak. He said United Utility Pipeline (UUP), a company that lists a Bloomfield office, had been contracted to do excavating work on the four-foot deep pipe.

Buckeye wanted to make some repairs on one of the pipe's large valves, Haase said. But in digging to reach the large valve, a UUP worker operating a backhoe apparently struck and dislodged a smaller valve that is used to gauge the pipe's pressure, he said.

The company has replaced the small valve, but has not made any of the planned repairs on the larger valve, Haase said.

Although Buckeye is conducting its own investigation, Haase noted that a Buckeye supervisor was at the site when the valve was struck, and said the company is assuming full responsibility for the incident.

He said the company is paying for the entire cleanup operation and the foam used by the Fire Department. Haase said Buckeye will pay for police and fire overtime if it is requested to do so.

Police officials said yesterday they anticipated leaving the site by today. Officials also predicted that Victory Boulevard would be entirely reopened today. The street was reopened late Tuesday but traffic was funneled into one lane in each direction.