

Staten Island

SOUTH SHORE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1996

Hundreds flee as 40 Willowbrook homes are emptied

Fuel line bomb cre

By **PAUL MCPOLIN**
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Hundreds of residents and students in Willowbrook were evacuated this morning after a suspicious package "with a timing device attached" was found on top

of a fuel pipeline nearby.

About 40 families on Crafton Avenue, Willowbrook Road and Wooley Avenue were told to leave their homes. PS 54 on Willowbrook Road was evacuated and the students were taken to Susan Wagner High School. Young Israel of Staten Island, which houses a pre-

school, also was evacuated.

Officials on the scene said the device was found on top of a "confirmed, aviation fuel pipeline buried five feet underground. The pipeline carries jet fuel from a refinery in New Jersey through Staten Island to Kennedy Airport in Queens, according to Gwen

Williams of the Port Authority, which operates the airport. She said the incident was not affecting airport operations.

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pipeline nearby. Families on Crafton Avenue, Willowbrook Road and Woodside were told to leave their homes. PS 54 on Willowbrook Road was evacuated and the students were taken to Susan Wagner School. Young Israel of Queens, which houses a pre-

school, also was evacuated. Officials on the scene said the device was found on top of a "confirmed aviation fuel pipeline" buried five feet underground. The pipeline carries jet fuel from a refinery in New Jersey through Staten Island to Kennedy Airport in Queens, according to Gwen

Williams of the Port Authority, which operates the airport. She said the incident was not affecting airport operations.

The Pennsylvania-based company that operates the pipeline, Buckeye Pipe Line, had no information about the investigation, but said the pipe also delivers liq-

uid petroleum to terminals in Brooklyn.

The device was found at Crafton and Willowbrook Road near a back entrance to the Staten Island Developmental Center and the College of Staten Island.

The area is the site of a water and sewer project, and workers

found the device when they arrived for work shortly after 7 a.m.

The area was closed off by police and fire officials as they waited for the Bomb Squad to arrive.

The Squad sent a robot equipped with a camera to view the device.