

Major fire in Tilak Nagar nullah

By *editor*

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A major fire broke out at Kranti Nagar nullah in Tilak Nagar (west) on Thursday morning destroying about 25 hutments. Though there were no casualties, a major tragedy was averted as the fire had taken place due to a leakage in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's (BPCL) Aviation Turbo Fuel (ATF) pipeline.

According to fire officials, the oil had spilled into the nullah due to the pipeline leakage a few days ago.

The spilled oil caught fire by 6.45 am, gutting the hutments adjoining the nullah.

Electricity connections were damaged due to the fire, but they have been restored. "The repair work of the 14.7-km pipeline which stretches from Santa Cruz to Chembur has been started. However, the fire must have started when someone discarded a burning cigarette into the oil," said a fire official.

According to the BPCL officials, the cause of the fire was a crack in the pipeline due to the drilling work being carried out by the railway authority for building a wall.

"We have put up a caution board near the nullah, stating that it is a high-pressure ATF pipeline and prior permission should be taken before excavation of the ground. But the railway authorities carried out the drilling work without



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The nullah into which the oil from the BPCL pipeline leaked— Rajesh Jadhav

permission and caused a crack in the pipeline on November 8, thus spilling oil in the adjoining nullah. We had registered a complaint in the Nehru Nagar (Kurla) police station regarding this,” said a BPCL official.

Mumbai Age Correspondent mumbai
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