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## **Houston Officials Plan Faster Hurricane Evacuation**

*Plastic Water-Filled Barriers Can be Moved Quickly to Double Traffic Lanes*

**Houston, TX—September 28, 2006**—Residents will be able to evacuate more quickly in the event of a hurricane now that improvements are in place to double capacity on local freeways. At three locations, yellow plastic water-filled barriers made by Off the Wall Products and distributed and installed locally by Batterson Distributing have replaced 1,000-foot sections of concrete median. In the event of an evacuation, the plastic barriers can be emptied of water and moved quickly, converting two-directional traffic lanes into a single, efficient escape route.

Plastic barriers are now set up in interlocking sections on Hwy 59, south of Humble, on Highway 45, south of Conroe, and on Hwy 10 east of Katy.



**Plastic, water-filled barriers are strong and heavy when filled with water, and light and easy to move when empty. They're a smart traffic safety device in hurricane areas.**

Four million people live in the metropolitan Houston area, and estimates indicate that 2.5 million people evacuated the city when Hurricane Rita threatened Houston in September 2005. Many endured traffic jams lasting more than 10 hours.

Almost immediately after Hurricane Rita, officials began to explore improvements to evacuation procedures and routes to help people get out of Houston faster in the event of another emergency. One way to significantly improve egress from the city, officials know, is to create contraflow lanes and allow people to escape using lanes on both sides of the median—eight lanes in Houston—instead of just four. Plastic barriers can be moved quickly and easily, whereas concrete barriers require cranes to lift and reposition them.

Ease of setup and ready mobility make water-filled barriers a smart highway safety resource. For cities that need to respond to emergency situations quickly, they offer flexibility in traffic control exactly when it's needed.

To learn more about plastic water-filled barriers and barricades, visit [www.offthewallproducts.com](http://www.offthewallproducts.com) or call 801-363-7740 for more information.

Off the Wall Products is a Salt Lake City-based company that designs and manufactures heavy-duty plastic barriers and barricades for roadway, airport, military and commercial construction. Since 1989, the company has designed innovative safety products, such as easy-to-deploy water-filled barriers, barricades and other high-tech products, which reduce accidents, ensure motorist and worker safety and protect our armed forces.

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