

Dubai Police unveil new traffic safety strategy

More specialised patrol units will monitor Dubai roads to ensure motorists follow safe driving rules, he said while adding that the new campaign for this strategy will be entitled, "be civilised."

- By Siham Al Najami, Staff Reporter
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Dubai: A new traffic safety strategy is set to establish a challenging record of reducing fatalities to zero for every 100,000 of the population in Dubai by 2020, said the Chief of Dubai Police.

"The ultimate goal for us is to establish civilised driving habits as motorists' driving behaviour accounts for over 90 per cent of accidents in Dubai while less than 3 per cent is due to road-architectural faults," said Lieutenant General Dahi Khalfan Tamim, Chief of Dubai Police.

More specialised patrol units will monitor Dubai roads to ensure motorists follow safe driving rules, he said while adding that the new campaign for this strategy will be entitled, "be civilised."

"You will witness many business people fashionably-dressed but will exhibit reckless driving behaviour, which is not a civilised attitude in world-recognised city like Dubai," said Lt Gen Dahi.

The strategy is based on four agendas to help establish the ultimate goal of curbing fatalities and accidents. The agendas are improving motorists' driving habits, inspecting vehicles for traffic safety regulations and for criminal safety procedures, inspecting motorists' records, and traffic awareness campaigns.

Different patrol units will be specialised in various traffic regulations such as a unit to observe and find solutions to reckless driving, jumping a red light, speeding, aggressive driving, car racing, driving under the influence of alcohol, people avoiding to pay their traffic fines, motorists committing violations by altering their plate numbers, and wanted persons for traffic or criminal offences.

Lt Gen Dahi said 62 driving faults should be changed for the strategy to reach its goal by 2020.

Last year, Dubai roads witnessed the lowest fatality rate in four years with 23.5 per cent decline in deaths and 16 per cent decline in fatal accidents compared to 2008.

Major General Mohammad Saif Al Zafein, Director of Dubai Police's Traffic Department, said the traffic indicator on fatalities last year was extremely positive as it has declined from 294 in 2008 to 225 in 2009.

This translates to 17.86 deaths for every 100,000 of the population in 2008 while 12.7 fatalities to every 100,000 of the population in 2009.

In 2005, fatalities reached 236 and in 2006 the figure rose to 312. The number kept increasing in 2007 to reach 332 while it dropped in 2008 to 294.

"It's a challenging goal," said Maj Gen Al Zafein.

Traffic violations: Some of the offences

Strategy to curb the following driving behaviours:

- 1) Driving vehicles that pose a threat (car racing)
- 2) Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs
- 3) Reckless driving
- 4) speeding
- 5) Jumping red signals
- 6) Driving dangerously
- 7) Recklessly overtaking other vehicles
- 8) Overtaking vehicles from the shoulder of the road
- 9) Not adhering to road lanes
- 10) Truck-drivers not adhering to their specific lanes
- 11) Overtaking vehicles from forbidden places
- 12) Driving in the wrong direction
- 13) Children under the age of 10 seated in the front seats
- 14) Not wearing seatbelts
- 15) Not leaving enough distance between vehicles

- 16) Failing to follow instruction by a police officer
- 17) Entering a road without checking
- 18) Exceeding car tinting
- 19) Hindering ambulances, police cars, and civil defense vehicles to pass in emergencies
- 20) Vehicles with faulty safety regulations
- 21) Vehicles that cause noise or disturbance
- 22) Driving an unlicensed vehicle
- 23) Overloading in heavy vehicles that could threaten the safety of motorists
- 24) Carrying heavy items in way that could threaten the safety of the public
- 25) Vehicles that pose environmental threat
- 26) Stopping/parking in the middle of the road
- 27) Stopping in the yellow box
- 28) Littering
- 29) Failing to adhere to safety road signs
- 30) Parking on the side of the road
- 31) Parking or stopping the vehicle on pedestrian areas
- 32) Teaching driving in vehicles not displaying a sign.
- 33) Teaching driving in vehicles not licensed for this purpose.
- 34) Passing changes to industrial, construction vehicles and mechanical equipments without permission
- 35) Doing changes in the engine of the vehicle without permission or license
- 36) Altering the colors of the vehicle without permission/license
- 37) Driving with licenses of countries not permitted in Dubai
- 38) Driving a vehicle with a different license permit.

- 39) Towing vehicles without using proper equipment
- 40) Leaving a parked car with the engine running
- 41) Driving without proper head and back lights
- 42) Driving with faulty head-lights
- 43) Entering restricted areas
- 44) Blocking traffic
- 45) Unqualified vehicles
- 46) Vehicles lacking safety measures
- 47) Not covering the items on trucks
- 48) Using vehicles in an unauthorized manner
- 49) Limiting the entrance of heavy vehicles in public areas
- 50) Loading and off loading in parking
- 51) Transporting passengers illegally
- 52) Failing to take proper procedures when a vehicle breaks down in the middle of the road.
- 53) U-Turn in the wrong direction (Illegal u-turns)
- 54) U-turn in a wrong way
- 55) Overloading a light vehicle
- 56) Stopping vehicles without taking into consideration the legal and safe distance and place
- 57) Transporting passengers from undesignated areas
- 58) Sudden swerve
- 59) Riding unlicensed taxi cabs
- 60) Taking passengers in vehicles designated for teaching driving

61) Dangerously or recklessly reversing

62) Failing to secure items from leaking or falling off from a vehicle

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