

Abu Dhabi launches free roadside breakdown service

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BREAKDOWN SERVICE: New patrols will start on Abu Dhabi roads to ensure free flowing traffic even when accidents occur. (Getty Images)

The Department of Transport (DoT) in Abu Dhabi has launched a new free initiative in cooperation with police to help manage accidents and vehicle breakdowns in the emirate.

The new Accident Vehicle Breakdown Management Service will result in the introduction of 10 road patrols, to be allocated to Abu Dhabi Police's Sa'ed for Road Management.

These new patrols will provide assistance for free to any roadside emergency, including mechanical failure or accidents, which result in the disruption of emirate's traffic flow.

The new service will start on October 26, in time to support two large spectator events to be held in Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi's F1 Championship on October 30 and the World Cup for Clubs on December 9, the DoT said in a statement.

Official said the events would result in a significant rise in the city's traffic volume and subsequently increase the risk of traffic flow issues.

Khalid Mohamed Hashim, executive director of Land Transport Sector, Department of Transport, said: "Abu Dhabi is experiencing an exponential growth in population, combined with a larger number of economic and touristic activities, which have naturally resulted in greater volumes of traffic.

"The introduction of these 10 new free road patrols are part of our efforts to constantly develop and improve traffic strategies to ensure that Abu Dhabi is a safe and efficient destination for residents and visitors.

"The safety of people is always our top priority and any accident or interruption on the highway increases the chances of more road users being affected. Therefore, it is imperative that any accident or break-down is dealt with fast and efficiently."