

Dubai Traffic Police Drives Past Billion-Dirham Mark

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DUBAI — The traffic department of the Dubai police has crossed the billion-dirham mark this year by way of accumulated fines recovered.

Brigadier Mohammed Saif Al Zafin, director of the traffic department, said Dh741 million involved Dubai vehicles, the rest those of other emirates.

The year is not yet over. Al Zafin said, in comparison, the recovery of fines for accumulated traffic violations in 2008 was Dh560 million.

He said the installation of radars and deployment of personnel to collect from offenders accounted for the markedly high recovery this year. The number of offences remain about the same.

Al Zafin said 527,000 traffic violations were recorded by the third quarter of 2009 around, compared with 550,000 in 2008, but expected the number of fatal accidents to drop 59 per cent over the previous year.

The expectation is based on the reduction of speed limit by 10kmph for heavy vehicles, mini-buses and taxis to be implemented in Dubai in November.

He said the increase in number of radars from 159 last year to 509 this year would also contribute to a decline in number of fatal accidents. It is not just about supervision.

He said strict enforcement of federal traffic law, implementation of the black points systems and deployment of police patrols in front of schools had served to prevent hit-and-run accidents.