

# Far Fewer Traffic Deaths in Dubai

7 October 2009,

DUBAI — The death rate in traffic accidents in Dubai has declined by nearly a quarter in the first eight months of the year, compared to the same period in 2008, according to statistics from the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police.

The number of fatal hit-and-run accidents has also dropped, but other categories of fatal accidents have increased.

During the first eight months of the year, 146 deaths occurred in 2,485 accidents in Dubai. In the same period in 2008, 193 deaths occurred from 2,563 accidents.

Brigadier Mohammed Saif Al Zafin, Director of the department, said the decrease in fatal accidents was due to extensive awareness campaigns organised by the department.

“The campaign ‘Cross Safely’ is the first programme of its kind at UAE level. It aims to spread awareness among workers and minimise hit-and-run accidents,” Al Zafin said.

Although fewer than last year, hit-and-run accidents were the main cause of fatalities. Statistics showed 44 deaths occurred during the first eight months of this year, down about one third compared to 2008.

Al Zafin said the campaign had targeted 250,000 workers across different companies. The campaign began in February last year and incorporated lectures at different locations, especially labour accommodations, about the danger of crossing the road in the wrong way, especially at an undesignated place.

## Compared to last year

- **hit and run:** 44 deaths, down 29% from 62 deaths
- **sudden deviation:** 18 deaths, up 20% from 15 deaths
- **speeding:** 14 deaths, down 59% from 34 deaths
- **not indicating:** 9 deaths, down 53% from 19 deaths
  
- **total:** 146 deaths, down 24% from 193 deaths