

## Seven killed, dozens injured in car-bus collision



Civil Defence Department personnel work at the scene of an accident on the Zarqa-Amman highway on Monday (Photo courtesy of CDD)

**AMMAN** – Seven people were killed and 45 others injured on Monday in a three-vehicle collision on the Zarqa-Amman highway, official sources said.

The accident occurred when the tyre of a car with Saudi licence plates heading towards Zarqa burst, causing its driver to lose control of the vehicle, which veered into oncoming traffic, Police Spokesperson Major Mohammad Khatib said.

The car struck a passenger bus and a vehicle in the opposite lane, causing the bus to overturn, the police official added.

All three passengers in the car, a man, his wife and their son, were killed on impact, the police official said.

The other deaths and injuries were among the bus passengers, he added, noting that all the casualties were Jordanians.

Meanwhile, the Civil Defence Department said the injured were rushed to five surrounding hospitals, including a military hospital, and 12 are listed in critical condition and 15 in fair condition, while the rest sustained minor injuries.

According to the Traffic Department, the death toll from road accidents has dropped from 752 in 2008 to 676 in 2009.

The number of severe injuries caused by road accidents dropped by 40 per cent in 2009, while the number of fatalities went down by 31 per cent compared to the previous year, according to the department.

A study released in early 2010 by a committee tasked with examining the main cause behind traffic accidents in Jordan indicated that a lack of caution, driving in the wrong lane, improper overtaking and speeding are the main causes of road accidents in the country.