

More than 80% urge action over Dubai road safety

Thursday, 03 June 2010



DUBAI ROADS: Some 20.1 percent of people said stricter driving tests were needed to make the emirate's roads safer. (Getty Images)

More than 80 percent of people think new measures should be brought in to improve driving standards on Dubai's roads, the latest *Arabian Business* poll has found.

According to the online survey, 53.2 percent of people think more traffic police are needed to reduce the number of violations, like speeding and tail-gaiting, which cause accidents.

A further 20.1 percent of respondents said stricter driving tests needed to be introduced to improve motorists skills, while 8.6 percent of people said more speed cameras were the answer.

A total of 18.1 percent said nothing needed to be done because standards in Dubai "are the best in the world".

The results follow the recent release of a shocking 'stunt' driving video filmed during the day on Sheikh Zayed Road.

Dubai Police impounded the two vehicles seen in the footage – one driving on two wheels and the other doing do-nut manoeuvres, where a car circles around with smoke coming from all four tyres – and arrested the owners.

The suspects are thought to be facing up to three years in prison and fines if convicted.

Driving standards across the Middle East have been under focus after a top official revealed last month that the region's roads are the second most dangerous in the world.

Robert Marks, a senior official of International Safety Council, during a visit to Doha in Qatar, said 18 of every 100,000 people losing their lives in car crashes.

He said African roads were considered the most dangerous in the world with 24 people out of every 100,000 dying in road incidents every year.