

Officials urge action over Qatar death trap area

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ROAD DEATHS: Officials have called for action over the number of traffic deaths in 2009. (Getty Images)

Senior traffic officials have called for urgent action to address the poor roads in Qatar's Industrial Area after it saw the highest number of pedestrian deaths last year.

A total of 222 deaths due to road accidents were recorded in the area in 2009, with 28 deaths in one month alone – according to a report in the Peninsula.

"The total casualties in the year would have been less than 200 if a sudden rise in accidents had not happened in just one month. This had prompted the Minister of State for Interior H E Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani to call for an investigation into the issue," Brigadier Mohammed Saad Al Kharji, director of the Department, told a news conference

However, the number of road traffic accidents in the country has fallen, he said, and are now below international levels of between 14 and 18 deaths per 100,000 population, the paper reported.