

# Police chief calls for ban on minibus licences

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DUBAI ROADS: Seventy six people have died on Duabi's roads in the first eight months of the year. (Getty Images)

**A senior police official has called for a review of minibus licences because of the danger their drivers pose to Dubai's other motorists.**

Major General Mohammad Zaif Al Zafein, director of Dubai Police, traffic department, told Gulf News, that 21 percent of all road deaths in the first three months of this year involved minibuses.

He said nine accidents this year have resulted in the deaths of 14 people – the rate increased by the number of passengers travelling in minibuses.

On Sunday, seven people were killed and 11 injured when a minibus collided with a vehicle on the Dubai-AI Ain highway

"It is classified as a lightweight vehicle which could be driven by anyone with the average light vehicle licence," Al Zafein told the paper.

"The minibus doesn't have the basic safety features present in other vehicles. It holds around 14 passengers seated very close to each other and shouldn't be used to transport passengers as its structure is not strong enough to hold this number of passengers.

"This vehicle is unstable and it could deceive the driver," he said.

Figures show that while there is an overall decline in the number of road accidents in the country in the first eight months of the year, there has been a rise in the number of accidents involving minibuses.

Earlier this year officials ruled that a maximum nine passengers could be carried in a minibus, down from 16, but this has been largely ignored, the paper said.