

Reduction in speed limit aimed at curbing deaths

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Dubai: The Dubai Police Department is continuing its efforts to reduce road fatalities with new regulations coming into effect despite the fact that accidents and fatalities have fallen.

Earlier, motorists were permitted to extend the speed limit by 20km/h. This will now be reduced to 10, said Major General Mohammad Saif Al Zafein, director of the department.

If motorists are on a road with a speed limit of 100km/h they are allowed to go up to 120.

A fine is issued if they go beyond this limit. However, now that will be reduced by 10km/h and in this case the motorists are only allowed to go up to 110km/h

However, this new regulation, to be implemented next month, will only apply to certain vehicles such as light buses (minibuses), heavy vehicles (trucks and buses), and light weight vehicles (pick-ups) and taxis. This will not include average cars and motorcycles,

Maj Gen Al Zafein said. According to statistics revealed by the department, light weight buses like minibuses contributed to 25 fatalities in the first nine months of 2008.

Sixteen people were killed by heavy buses, 54 by light weight vehicles (pick-ups), 38 from heavy trucks, and three by taxis, Maj Gen Al Zafein said about the same period of 2008.

More Radars

In 2009, the department registered 10 fatalities from light weight buses like minibuses, eight from heavy buses like transportation buses, 15 from light weight trucks like pick-ups, and 20 from heavy trucks.

“We have our strategy to ensure that only these vehicles are fined if they pass the new speed limit. The fines will be issued mainly by our patrol units, who will be using the new hand-held radar along with mobile radars,” Maj Gen Al Zafein said.

Last year there were 193 radars in Dubai and this year it has over 500 radars, according to the officer.

In the first nine months of 2008, 219 people died in road accidents whereas in the same period in 2009, 160 people died. This does not include the 19 road fatalities in this month alone.

According to Maj Gen Al Zafein, so far the indicators are positive that the number of road fatalities will come down.

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“The target for us is that we don’t want road fatalities for this year to go beyond 240,” he said.

Four people were killed in separate road accidents across the UAE in the past two days.

In the first accident, an Arab national identified as S.K. was speeding when he veered off, hitting a road barrier. His vehicle overturned, causing his death, on Hatta road.

Another accident occurred when a truck container fell on a car. The front seat passenger of the vehicle died while the driver sustained moderate injuries. The incident took place on Dubai bypass road.

Traffic: Four fatalities

A UAE national woman was killed yesterday morning along the Al Dhaid highway in Sharjah in a car crash, while her four-year-old daughter escaped with minor injuries.

During the past weekend, a Omani national died in a road accident on Al Filayyah Street in Ras Al Khaimah.

Police said that the 30 year old died when his saloon car collided with a heavy vehicle.