

# Traffic accident fatalities in UAE decrease sharply in first six months

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Abu Dhabi: Road mortality rates in the UAE dropped by 21 per cent and injuries by 23 per cent in the first half of this year compared to the corresponding half of last year, official figures revealed.

In another positive development, accidents caused by collisions, running over by and turning over of vehicles fell by 25 per cent, according to Colonel Gaith Al Za'abi, director general of Traffic Coordination Administration, Ministry of Interior.

'Statistics showed that a decline of traffic mishaps across the UAE to 3,581 in the first six months of 2010 from 5,032 in the same period in 2009 led to a slump in fatalities and injuries to 391 and 4,372 from 495 and 5,652 respectively in the period under review.

Emirate-wise, Abu Dhabi reported a decline of 26 per cent in traffic accidents from 1,631 in the January-June period 2009 to 1,211 in the same half of 2010.

## **Drastic fall**

This brought the traffic death toll down from 216 to 174 and injuries from 1,908 to 1,756. In Dubai, he said, traffic accidents dropped to 1,915 in the first half of 2009 to 1,358 in the corresponding half of the current year while the number of people who died and were wounded in traffic accidents fell by 25 per cent and 51 per cent respectively.

The emirate of Sharjah, Al Za'abi said, saw an 18.5 per cent fall in road accidents from January through June, pushing the death toll and the wounded cases down by 26 per cent and 23 per cent respectively. "While traffic accidents and death toll went down by 22 per cent and 31 per cent respectively in Ajman, injuries rose by 11 per cent," the Interior Ministry official said.

In Umm Al Quwain, road accidents dipped 21 per cent but fatalities increased by 11 per cent and number of injured by 9 per cent. Traffic accidents decreased 25 per cent in Ras Al Khaimah, he added.