

Breathalyzers help reduce drink driving in Dubai

Traffic authorities' use of an advanced breathalyser has helped prosecute 1,092 suspects during 2010

- By Bassam Za' za', Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 December 31, 2010



Dubai: Traffic authorities' use of an advanced breathalyser that shows drunken drivers' accurate percentage of liquor consumption has helped prosecute 1,092 suspects during 2010, said Dubai's chief traffic prosecutor yesterday.

"Using a highly developed and new breathalyser, a liquor breath testing device, has helped the processes of litigating and prosecuting 1,092 suspects involved in cases of driving under the influence of liquor during 2010.

"The device is sophisticated enough to specify the accurate amounts of liquor consumed by the drivers. The number of drink driving cases has fallen compared to 2009, during which we registered 1,155 cases of drunken driving. Drunken driving cases are considered the most dangerous and grave crimes... and the suspects involved in drink driving cases come from different nationalities," said Chief Traffic Prosecutor Salah Bu Farousha, Head of Dubai's Traffic Public Prosecution (TPP).

Driving licences

He said 859 driving licences were revoked and TPP has looked into 7,256 traffic cases [of different charges] this year.

"Dubai Police's different police stations and Traffic Departments are our strategic partners with whom we cooperate closely and prosecute suspects who involve in drinking driving cases.

"Traffic prosecutors rely highly in their investigations on the technical reports issued by the experts from Dubai Police's Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, to implicate drunken drivers. The reports are crucial and help in specifying the accurate amount of consumed alcohol either by undergoing a blood test or through the breathalyser," said Bu Farousha.

Road fatalities

He said suspects involved in drunken driving cases caused what he described as 'tragic and horrific' accidents which led road fatalities, injuries and damage to public and private properties.

"We have constantly asked the courts to implement the toughest punishments applicable against such reckless and inattentive drivers... We also ask the court to revoke driving licences for periods varying between three months and one year. Upon several court rulings, we immediately revoke the driving licences in cooperation with the Roads and Transport Authority," said the chief traffic prosecutor.

© Gulf News 2011