



احرص على
السلامة
في الطريق

Take care of
SAFETY
on the road



“THE ROAD NETWORK IN THE UAE is one of the most modern and well maintained in the world. However, with a 12 per cent annual increase in the number of vehicles on UAE roads, and armed with the knowledge that road traffic accidents are now the second major cause of death in the UAE [the first being heart disease], the need for more safety-conscious drivers becomes ever-more important.

GASCO is responding to this serious need by means of a Road Safety Campaign, the aim of which is to motivate employees, contractors and their families who drive in the UAE to become safer drivers.

The GASCO Road Safety Campaign has begun with a new Road Safety Procedure and a training programme for staff who drive on Company business. The Campaign also includes a presentation, a video and, of course, this booklet, which are intended for all members of staff.

We hope that by pressing home to you the need to take care of safety on the roads of the UAE, we will be able to keep you safe - and prevent any one of you from becoming a road traffic accident statistic.

We should, and can, avoid the suffering caused by road accident injuries, and the distress to families and colleagues, by being aware of the risks and taking the simple steps outlined in this booklet to control them.

Drive carefully at all times. You owe it to yourself, your passengers and other road users.”

Mohammed Abdulla Sahoo
General Manager
April, 2004

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SAFETY ON THE ROAD:

ARMED WITH THE FACTS

According to the latest statistics published in the UAE, traffic accidents have become a daily phenomenon on UAE roads, and the statistics are rising.

An average of 548 people have lost their lives every year for the last five years, whilst the number of victims in 2003 reached 755. More than 50 per cent of these fatalities were associated with speeding.

Road traffic accidents are now the most frequent cause of admission to hospital for children aged 10-14 years, and young male adults are the most frequent victims of road accidents. The latest figures for 2002 show that 84 per cent of victims were male and 16 per cent female. A total of 80 per cent of the victims were under 40 years old, including the 13 per cent who were children.

UAE nationals have accounted for the bulk of the victims of road accidents, both in terms of physical injuries and material damage, making up to 32.5 per cent of the casualties recorded last year.

Insurance companies are pushing for a considerable increase in the insurance rate in the UAE and some are not providing comprehensive insurance cover for drivers between 18 and 25 years since they are involved in most accidents.

SUMMING UP THE STATISTICS

- The latest figures made available from the Abu Dhabi Traffic Police Department show that the UAE has one of the highest road traffic accident rates in the world.
- Road traffic accidents are the second major cause of death in the UAE - second only to heart disease.
- The latest figures show that speed is the number one cause of death on the roads of the UAE.
- Other major causes of death and injury on the roads of the UAE are:
 - disregard of road warning signs and signals
 - changing lanes without due care
 - dangerous overtaking
 - driving too close to the vehicle in front
 - fatigue
 - distractions whilst driving
 - poor maintenance of vehicles

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS FOR ALL YOUR FAMILY

This booklet can only be of real use to you and your family if you take the time to read it thoroughly and share its contents with all members of your family.

Safety awareness on the roads in the UAE should not be the responsibility of just one person. It should be a priority for all members of the family - and not just for those members of the family with driving licences. Children should be taught road safety from an early age, both as pedestrians and as passengers.





THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE UAE:

Speed

Speed is the major cause of death and injury on the roads of the UAE today. Studies have shown that you are four times more likely to be killed in a road accident when travelling at 100 kilometres per hour than at 60 kilometres per hour.

Speed limits in the UAE are clearly marked on signposts on the side of the roads. But remember that speed should be adjusted to suit particular conditions, taking into account such factors as the density of traffic, weather and the time of day.

ALWAYS DRIVE WITHIN THE SPEED LIMIT

You cannot control the driving habits of others, but you can control your own driving - and your speed.

The following maximum speeds should be observed:

- Freeway, 100 or 120 km/h
- Highway, 100 km/h
- Main road, 80 km/h
- Residential area, 40-60 km/h

A good driver will...

- observe the speed limit at all times
- be patient and plan all journeys so that there is no need to rush
- be aware of the road conditions and adjust speed and braking distance accordingly (see page 10)

**Remember:
speed kills**





! Disregard of road warning signs and signals, changing lanes without due care and dangerous overtaking

Statistics show that a disregard for road signs or signals and poor manoeuvring are major causes of road traffic accidents in the UAE. Poor judgement when overtaking is another serious cause of road accidents, and is often associated with speeding.

A good driver will...

- concentrate and think ahead
- drive defensively, with both hands on the steering wheel
- show consideration to other road users at all times
- observe all road signs - and act on them
- be aware of his or her surroundings at all times
- check mirrors immediately before signalling and making a manoeuvre
- always use the vehicle indicators to signal intentions well in advance

... and when it comes to overtaking, a good driver will...

- only overtake when there is clear visibility ahead and enough distance in which to safely complete the manoeuvre
- never overtake on the brow of a hill or when approaching a bend
- never overtake where there are solid white lines in the middle of the road
- ensure that there is a suitable gap in front of the vehicle to be overtaken
- always check in the mirror and indicate before beginning the overtaking manoeuvre
- always check in the mirror and indicate before returning to the right hand lane
- allow plenty of space before moving back into the right-hand lane

**Remember:
think ahead -
mirror, signal, manoeuvre**



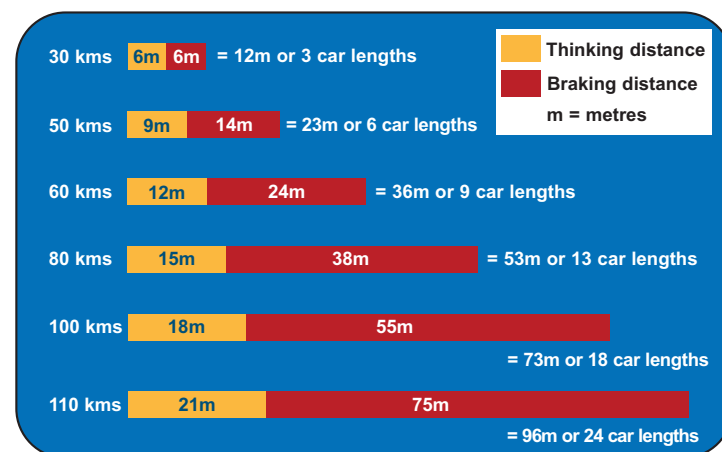
Driving too close to the vehicle in front

Driving too close to the vehicle in front is another major cause of accidents in the UAE.

The latest figures show that during 2002, 70 deaths and 1,057 injuries were recorded as a result of vehicles driving too close to one another.

All drivers should maintain a minimum gap of two seconds driving time from the vehicle in front. Use a fixed point to help you to maintain a two-second gap.

The following table illustrates the complete stopping distance of a car with an average driver response time of 0.7 seconds when conditions are normal. The distance may double if the driver is not concentrating or the road is wet or slippery.



A good driver will...

- keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front
- apply the brakes in good time to avoid stopping suddenly or skidding

Remember :
observe the two-second rule

Fatigue

Tiredness and the subsequent lack of concentration and quick response are also causes of accidents on the roads in the UAE.

Drivers should be aware of the risks created by fatigue and recognise its signs - for example, difficulty in focusing the eyes, yawning, drifting out of lanes, and a drooping of the head.

A good driver will...

- not drive when feeling tired or unwell
- respond to the symptoms of fatigue by finding a safe place to stop and taking a break
- plan a long journey to take sufficient breaks - a minimum of 15 minutes after every two hours of driving is recommended
- be aware that drinking coffee, opening the window, or turning on the radio will promote only short-term alertness

Remember:
fatigue can kill.
Do not drive when you are tired



! Distractions whilst driving

When driving, avoid distractions such as smoking, eating, drinking, and using your mobile phone.

Mobile phones can cause a dangerous lack of concentration when driving. If your car is not fitted with a hands-free device you should not use a mobile phone at all whilst driving unless it is fitted with an ear piece and microphone. Drivers should not make outgoing calls unless they are parked in a safe place and any incoming calls should be completed as soon as possible.

A good driver will...

- avoid all distractions
- never use a mobile phone whilst driving

**Remember:
mobile phones
cause accidents**



! Poor maintenance of vehicles

The lack of proper maintenance of a vehicle can also cause accidents, particularly when dealing with tyres and brakes. But statistics show that it's not only these two elements which need to be checked regularly.

A good driver will...

- ensure that the correct tyres are fitted
- check that the pressure of the vehicle's tyres is correct and that the tyres are in good condition
- check the availability of an equally good spare tyre and keep it properly inflated
- check that all lights and indicators are working correctly
- check windshield wipers and washer fluid
- ensure that the vehicle is serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations

**Remember:
regular maintenance
saves lives**





THE IMPORTANCE OF WEARING SEAT BELTS

The wearing of a seat belt can make the difference between life and death.

In the event of an accident, wearing your seat belt keeps you from being thrown through the windscreen or bouncing around inside the vehicle.

It is your responsibility as a driver to always make sure that you and your passengers - including children and infants in child safety seats - are wearing their seat belts at all times. Never fit a rear-facing child safety seat in a seat protected by an air bag.

Always ensure that young children do not ride in the front of a vehicle but are buckled up in the back seat.

Remember:
clunk click every trip

OTHER AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

! Driving in bad weather

Although the weather is generally sunny in the UAE, high winds, heavy rain, sandstorms and fog can take drivers by surprise and cause accidents, so make sure your vehicle is always well maintained (see page 13) and drive carefully at all times.

A good driver will...

- reduce speed to suit the conditions
- keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front (see page 10)
- use dipped headlights when visibility is poor (side lights and parking lights are not sufficient)
- use high visibility lights when necessary
- use windscreen wipers and de-misters
- not rely on the driver in front
- apply brakes early and gradually to avoid skidding
- if it is necessary to pull off the road, indicate well in advance, and use hazard warning lights to indicate the position of his or her stationary vehicle to others



! Other road users

△ Children, pedestrians and cyclists

Always watch your speed, especially in residential areas, and keep to the speed limit. Pay particular attention to children, pedestrians and cyclists.

A good driver will...

- ensure that school children are dropped off at a safe place to access the school entrance without having to cross busy roads or behind other cars - and that young children are always escorted to the school gates
- be aware of children on the road at all times
- always give way at pedestrian crossings controlled by traffic lights to pedestrians who are still crossing when the lights change

A good pedestrian will...

- always walk on the left-hand side of the road facing the oncoming traffic if there is no foot path or pavement
- cross the road using an underpass, foot bridge, traffic island or pedestrian crossing
- avoid crossing between parked cars and on blind bends

A good cyclist or motorcyclist will...

- make sure that cycles and motorcycles are always maintained in good working order
- never cycle on pavements or on the wrong side of the road
- never cycle without lights and reflectors at night
- wear a crash helmet
- wear something reflective at night to improve his or her visibility

OTHER AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION



OTHER AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

Large vehicles

The latest available statistics show that whilst heavy vehicles constitute only 15 per cent of the total number of vehicles on the roads of the UAE, they are involved in 25 per cent of road traffic accidents.

Large vehicles may need extra road space to turn or deal with a hazard. If you are following a large vehicle, be prepared to stop and wait if it needs room or time to turn.

Large vehicles can block your view. Your ability to see and to plan ahead will be improved if you pull back from them.

A good driver will...

- **keep a safe distance from large vehicles at all times**
- **be aware that a large, heavy vehicle is not able to stop or manoeuvre as fast as a smaller vehicle**
- **give priority to buses when you can safely do so and look out for passengers getting off a bus and crossing the road**

OTHER AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION



Animals

When driving in rural areas, always be on your guard for stray animals, such as camels and goats, especially at night. When animals are present near the road, you should slow down, move with caution, and not try to scare the animals away with your horn as this may make them run into the road.

In the event of an accident with a larger animal (such as a camel, goat, donkey or cow), the police should be notified immediately.

Watch out for dogs too, especially in built up areas.

A good driver will...

- **slow down and keep a safe distance from animals at all times**

OTHER AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION



! Impaired eyesight

Eye sight should be checked regularly. A driver should be able to read a vehicle number plate from a distance of 20 metres (about five car lengths) in daylight. If glasses or contact lenses are needed to do this, they should be worn whilst driving. Also be aware of other items that can impair vision, such as sunglasses as it gets dark, *guthras* and veils.

! Alcohol/drug abuse

To drive a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs is inviting tragedy and the police exercise zero tolerance to alcohol in the UAE.

! ضعف النظر

يتوجب فحص النظر بشكل منتظم. ويجب أن تكون لدى السائق القدرة على قراءة لوحة مركبة من على بعد ٢٠ متراً (طول خمس سيارات تقريباً) في وضوح النهار. وإذا تطلب هذا الأمر نظارات أو عدسات، فإنه يتوجب عليه أن يضع هذه النظارات والعدسات طوال الوقت أثناء القيادة. كما يتوجب أخذ الحذر أثناء لبس بعض الأشياء التي قد تحجب النظر مثل الغترة والحجاب والنظارات الشمسية عندما يحل الظلام.

! تأثير الكحول والمخدرات

إن قيادة المركبة تحت تأثير الكحول أو المخدرات يؤدي إلى مآسي، أضف إلى ذلك أن الشرطة في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة لا تتهاون أو تتسامح أبداً في مثل قضايا قيادة المركبة بتأثير الكحول.

A good driver will...

- never attempt to drive if his or her judgement is impaired in any way

السائق الجيد يتبع ما يلي:

- لا يحاول أبداً قيادة مركبته إذا لم يكن في كامل وعيه وانتباهه بعيداً عن أية تأثيرات مهما كانت