

Home fire safety tightened

Dubai Civil Defence to install new system in villas and apartments that will automatically send fire and emergency alerts to nearest station even when there are no occupants inside the premises

Home fire safety undergoes overhaul

DUBAI CIVIL DEFENCE TO INSTALL NEW SYSTEM THAT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SEND ALERTS TO NEAREST FIRE STATION

DUBAI

By SHAFAT SHAHBANDARI
 Staff Reporter

Mandatory fire alert systems will soon be installed in all new villas and apartments as the Dubai Civil Defence overhauls fire safety at homes, say fire protection officials.

The announcement was made at a press conference for the launch of Intersec 2014, the 16th edition of the largest international exhibition and conference for safety, security and fire protection in the region, to be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from January 19 to 21.

"The new system will automatically alert the nearest fire station in case of fire or any emergency in any house. Firefighters will be alerted even if there are people at home or not," said Lt Col Jamal Ahmad Ebrahim, Director of Preventive Safety Department, Dubai Civil Defence.

In the first phase, the project will involve installation of fire alert systems at new villas and apartments.

Live demonstration

No deadline was given for building owners to comply but the initial phase of installations will likely begin before the year is out.

No fire alert system cost estimates for building owners were



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Dousing the flames

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released yesterday.

"The project is part of Dubai government's efforts to make the city the safest in the world. We have realised that currently fire safety in villas is not at the highest level. So we are planning to overhaul the safety system. In the first phase we will start with new villas and buildings and in the next phase will move to existing buildings," Ebrahim added.

The project will be unveiled during Intersec 2014, where

people will also be able to see live demonstration of the advanced safety system.

Organised by Epoc Messe Frankfurt, the event will see participation from 1,210 exhibitors from 54 countries and is supported by Dubai Civil Defence, Dubai Police and G4S security firm.

"Security is the biggest issue for the Expo 2020. Though Dubai is one of the safest cities in the world, our aim is to be number one in safety,

particularly keeping an eye on the future developments. Intersec is a great platform for the experts to come together and exchange ideas," said Col Humaid Mohammad Al Ansari, Director, Sports Affairs Department, General Department of Community Services, Dubai Police.

Evaluating strategies

"We are evaluating our strategies every year. Dubai Police are looking to increase their

Big business

\$6.3b

Estimate for Middle East security market.

10%

Growth of market expected in next four years.

force by at least 30 per cent in the next few years and enhance the city's safety and security infrastructure by at least 50 per cent. We just want people to feel more secure when they go out, whether it's day or night and in all parts of the city," he said.

According to market research conducted by international security solutions group G4S, the total Middle East security market is estimated at \$6.3 billion (Dh23.12 billion) with a growth of 10 per cent expected in the next four years.

Also on the conference calendar are the IOSH Middle East Occupational Health Seminar, the IWMA Seminar and the Techtexil Middle East Symposium.