

60,000 buildings to be connected online through Etisalat for risk detection

30,000 buildings already linked in Dubai; system found to be effective and improves response time

Nissar Hoath

ABU DHABI — About 60,000 residential and commercial buildings will go online by mid 2013 through Etisalat for fire and other hazardous detections to help provide quick safety response.

The new technology that involves a triangle between a Dubai-based technology solution services company Pacific Control Systems, the General Directorate of Civil Defence and Etisalat was introduced in 2008.

“We have already brought 30,000 buildings online in Dubai through Etisalat. It is a very effective and fastest safety alarm system that improves response time to tackle fires and other harmful incidents. We have installed a machine-to-machine (M2M) device in these building that detect fires and other dangerous incidents,” Nigel MacKenzie, Business Development Manager and Chief Technical Officer at Pacific Controls told *Khaleej Times* on the sideline of the Fire Safety Technology Forum UAE held in the capital on Thursday.

According to him, the technology works for all kinds of incidents in addi-

tion to fire alarm, such as elevator malfunctioning, water and gas leakages and electric short-circuits. The system also uses 3G and 2G, GPRS, GPS and other technologies to detect hazards and help rush concern safety teams from the Civil Defence without losing any time.

MacKenzie further added: “We are in a public-private-partnership with the local authorities to implement the project. We have been installing the

system connecting with Etisalat and the Civil Defence with 80 to 100 buildings connected a month. Implementation started in the third quarter of 2008 and within five years 60,000 buildings will be connected.”

He also said the system works 24 hours a day throughout the week with the buildings connected with Civil Defence operation rooms and their vehicles for the swift action. “We have an

intelligent Command Control Centre with 35 operators working 24 hours in shifts to receive fire and other incident reports through our backbone Etisalat network system. Once we get a report, we immediately filter it through immediate queries from building managements. If not false alarm, we inform the nearest Civil Defence stations and their vehicles are in the network,” he explained. — nissar@khaleejtimes.com

Latest firefighting techniques

Staff Reporter

ABU DHABI — The UAE General Directorate of Civil Defence is developing a set of latest and highest fire safety standards for the country, a top Interior Ministry official told a forum in the capital on Thursday.

Addressing the Fire Safety Technology Forum UAE (FST-UAE), Major General Rashid Thani Al Matroushi, UAE Civil Defence Director General, said: “The highest priority for the UAE is the implementation of the latest and best practices of fire fighting and rescue techniques that match our region’s nature.”

Held under the patronage of Lt General Shaikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the forum attended by over 120 local, regional and international delegates was inaugurated by the Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Saif Al Shaafar at Yas Hotel on Tuursady.

“The UAE Civil Defence is developing one of the world’s best and highest plans for fire safety standards. The plan is being drawn to set the solutions required to enhance the total development agenda of the country. New technologies and educational programmes are being introduced to help achieve the goal,” he said.

Al Matroushi further added that the plan also includes a greater participation of both local and expatriate residents of the country with comprehensive campaigns being launched.

“Prevention of fire and other incidents, rescue and safety is the prime objective of the UAE Civil Defence to overcome various challenges related to protection of human lives and assets of the country,” he added.

The second FST-UAE will be held in May next year. It will become an annual event with a two-day forum next year that is expected to receive over 200 delegates.

news@khaleejtimes.com