

Civil Defence walks road to "Smart Homes"



DUBAI: Starting from today, 190 homes under Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment (MBRHE) will be turned into Smart Homes, announced the Dubai Civil Defence.

Already 32 houses have been connected to the devices that enable occupants to alert Civil Defence operations room in case of any emergency just by pressing the alert button thus allowing the operators to see detailed stored information of the home resulting in rapid response.

The connection is borne out of the memorandum of understanding signed

between the two entities on Day Three of the ongoing Gitex Week at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai.

“Connecting homes to smart system is still mandatory, but it will become compulsory after completing establishment of new operations room at Dubai Civil Defence GHQ building,” said the Assistant Director General of Dubai Civil Defence for Safety and Protection Affairs, Col Salem Al Mugarab.

The agreement has placed MBRHE as the first partner to implement Smart Homes scheme with the Civil Defence.

The representative of the housing body, Eng Khalel Ebrahim, said that plans are set to provide all, which are over 1,000 houses that belong to MBRHE before the end of 2014.

Al Mugrab, who is also the Head of Smart Services Committee, said the annual subscription fees is Dhs500 plus more Dhs1,900 as the cost for the alarm device value and installation, paid once only.

“In case premises is to be monitored 24x7 then fees will be fixed based on the number of monitoring devices installed,” he said adding that a “Smart City is made up of Smart Homes.”



Col Al Mugrab explained that in line with 24x7 Smart System which was introduced in 2009, under the local order No(2)of 2009, pertaining to mandatory fire safety stipulations to be implemented in all establishments and buildings of Dubai emirate except private apartments, Dubai Civil Defence has already connected about 41,590 establishments and buildings.

“This is more than 90 per cent of Dubai existing buildings. The remaining 4,039 premises have been electronically surveyed for connection purpose following the completion of the required technical aspects needed for the same.”

He added that pursuant to ministers’ cabinet decision No (24) of 2012, Smart System became mandatory in all emirates of the UAE with effect from 1/1/2013.