

## Seminar on high-rise safety set

*Staff Report*

**Dubai** International experts and researchers will participate in a seminar to discuss safety precautions in high-rise buildings.

Brigadier Rashid Thani Al Matroushi, Director of Dubai Civil Defence, said the seminar will discuss evacuation plans in towers, safety precautions, the experience of Hong Kong, and rescue operations.

The seminar titled "First Dubai Strategic Seminar for the protection of High-Rise Buildings" will be held on January 23 at Burj Al Arab.

# Forum targets safety in high-rise buildings

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**DUBAI** More than 150 experts from several countries attended the first strategic forum on safety in high-rise buildings that got underway at the Burj Al Arab, this morning.

Brig. Rashid Thani Al Matroushi, Director of Dubai Civil Defence, said the forum is part of the Intersec 2007. The experts will discuss all the aspects related to high-rise building safety, he added. All construction and safety companies working in Dubai are attending the forum.

Al Matroushi said the forum will cover risk assessment and evacuation procedures, fire and life safety in



*Brig. Rashid Thani Al Matroushi and Kevin Murray addressing the forum. (K.N. Murali)*

the Burj Dubai tower, the Hong Kong high-rise building experiment, e-engineering announcement and the Intersec awards ceremony.

Speaking on the topic of risk assessment and evacuation procedures, Kevin Murray, Director of Washington

Hall Training Center, UK, said high-rise buildings were more prone to natural disaster like earthquakes than fires. "Each country has its own laws and conditions to deal safety issues in high-rise buildings," he said.

Murray called for an effective fire plan in high-rise buildings including reliable water supply, regular testing of installed safety systems, electrical fittings and communications, a secure back-up system, clear identification of elevators, floors and shafts, roof access for a helicopter, regular training for occupants and monitoring construction standards.

In the event of a fire, Murray said the use of a voice activation system other than the regular alarms will generate a more effective response because people respond to voice better.

Murray put the responsibility of fire safety in high-rise buildings on the architect, engineer, building owner, manager and Civil Defence.

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