



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

2 April 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I write this newsletter I am being informed about a terror attack that happened in Moshav Bat Ayin. An Arab terrorist burst into the moshav and chased down a 16-year old boy with an axe mortally wounding him. He then set his sights on a 7-year old boy and felled him with a blow to the chest. Moshav security response teams fired at the terrorist possibly hitting him before he fled to a nearby village.

United Hatzalah paramedic from Dimona, Avi Ben Shabat was doing his IDF reserve duty nearby and raced to the scene along with his unit's doctor. After working on the 16-year old boy for 10 minutes they were forced to pronounce him dead. No doubt it was only his professional training that helped him maintain operational focus upon seeing such a young boy so brutally attacked by a terrorist. The 7-year old was stabilized and evacuated in moderate condition to Hadassah Medical Center's Trauma Unit for further treatment.

Have a safe week.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Falls

This week was one of falls of unusual nature. A kitesurfer was airborne along the coast of picturesque Hertzliya when he lost altitude and directional control in a sudden gust of wind and crashed into a shelter on the beach.

United Hatzalah paramedic Noam Igra was at his home near the beach when the alert came through on the pager. Medic Natan Gazivatch hopped into his 4x4 and hooked up with Noam. They quickly prowled the beach from the approach road until they reached the location.

They found that the former kitesurfer had suffered serious head injuries from the impact with the shelter and had suspected spinal injuries from the rough landing. What was critical about Noam's treatment was the c-spine stabilization. Often friends and passersby exacerbate the situation by attempting to move or reposition the patient.



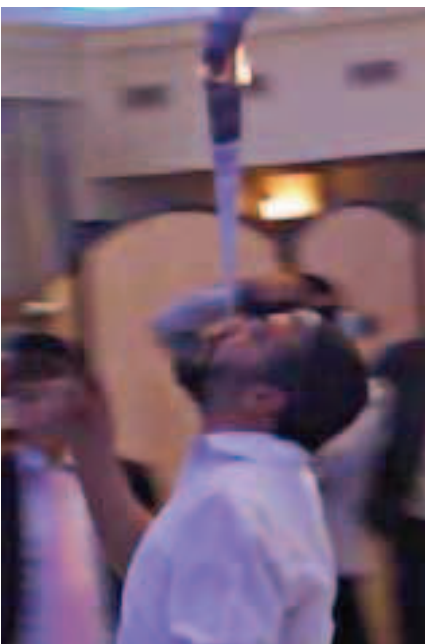


In Jerusalem, Ambucycle Medic Matan Nitzky also was on scene in a horrific fall from a 10-story high roadway bridge. When he arrived the person was still partially conscious.

Most of his injuries were not field treatable but the most critical task was protecting/establishing a patent airway without causing further injury to the patient.

In this case the patient landed on a small grassy patch in the generally rocky area and rolled down an embankment thereby diffusing the impact of the fall. United Hatzalah ambucycle medics joined Matan in stabilizing the patient until a MICU unit intubated and evacuated the patient to Hadassah Medical Center's Trauma Unit.

What a save!



It was a quiet evening for Ashdod's United Hatzalah medics. Medic Yechiel Vaknin was at a wedding of a remote acquaintance. Looking around Yechiel noticed that due to the fact that middle-aged bride and groom did not have particularly large families and their circle of friends had apparently dwindled over time the wedding did not seem to be overly joyous.

Aside from their medical expertise United Hatzalah medics are known for their compassion, resourcefulness and initiative. Calling on these attributes Vaknin's brief update to the local dispatcher started the ball rolling. Medics in the midst of their Pesach preparations dropped whatever they were doing and geared up to respond.

For some it meant a change out of their work clothes, for Shimon Rebibo it meant a bit more. Shimon Rebibo is a professional performer, juggler and balloon sculptor extraordinaire.

The small wedding hall slowly started to fill and the tempo of the music picked up accordingly. United Hatzalah medics brought along friends and family just to dance and make the new couple's wedding a bit more joyous. People who had been sitting on the sidelines joined in the festivities.

All eyes were on Rebibo's performance. The groom was glowing and the brides eyes glistened with joy (and perhaps a tear).

Someone commented to one of the medics, "I thought you only saved lives?!" The medic responded "This was my happiest save!"



MCI Training

United Hatzalah and Birthright Israel's Maayanot program teamed up for a MCI experience. United Hatzalah is committed to ensuring that its medics always have the most extensive training possible.

To this end members of Birthright Israel's Maayanot program and United Hatzalah medics simulated a MCI terror attack in a wooded area.

The challenges posed by the terrain and the seriousness of the mock injuries tested the abilities, equipment and creativity of the medics. A fleet of United Hatzalah TOMCAR ambutractors, ambucycles and ambulances were mobilized to test their capabilities and affect the rescue and evacuation of the "wounded".



**Thank you to all who have given us the opportunity to continue our work.
We hope you will continue to support us in the future.**

United Hatzalah is the largest emergency rescue volunteer organization in Israel which, working hand in hand with MDA has the endorsement of the leading Rabbis in Israel. **United Hatzalah** has branches in almost every city in Israel from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south.