



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

1 August 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week we take a hard look at the battle to reduce road fatalities. The battle literally takes us to the streets but also to the conference center where we address safety issues.

I am also proud to focus on the creative initiative of United Hatzalah Medic Eldad Tubol.

Have a great week,

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Road Offense

United Hatzalah Medic, Sami Groffman was an eyewitness, and of course, first responder to the recent multiple-fatality car accident on Route 1 near the airport. Sami was shocked to see what seemed to be an explosion as a car a few meters away from him slammed into a concrete pillar.

The impact ripped the car in 2 sending half of the chasis into the opposite lanes of traffic and wrapping the other half around the pillar, flinging shards of glass and plastic in all directions.

There was nothing to be done for 3 of the occupants and frantic efforts to save the 4th occupant came to naught, as he died at the hospital.

Police Cmdr. Yaakov Cohen said “We are talking about very high speeds that caused the car to be split in half”. Given the horrific damage, police initially weren’t even able to determine in which direction the vehicle had been traveling.

United Hatzalah Director Zevy Kashash reviewed the scene and urged drivers to reduce speed to save their own life and the lives of others.





Road Defense

In keeping with United Hatzalah's commitment to fight the battle against road accidents, senior staff participated in a fascinating road safety presentation by the Road Safety Authority. The initiative was introduced by Yair Dori, Director of the Road Safety Authority.

The video and accompanying mock-up models of road signs provided a Childs-eye (or bumper-level) view of traffic and road signs. Awareness of the child's sometimes confusing perspective can allow drivers to compensate when they are in an area frequented by children.

One interesting perspective is that while the average adult is taller than your average car an average 5 year-old can be half the height of the car. This explains in part why children will peek out from between parked cars when their view is blocked. It gives additional insight as to why it so hard for drivers to spot children.



Cross-Training

Eldad Tubol of the Shomron region is not one to take operational limitations sitting down. About 6 months ago a fire broke out in an apartment in the relatively isolated village of Emmanuel. It took firefighters 10 minutes to arrive.



During those 10 minutes no one was able to safely enter the building to evacuate the wounded. Eldad, not wanting to wait for a tragedy to occur, knew there had to be a solution.

After consultations with various branches within the fire department a plan was worked out. United Hatzalah volunteers would undergo an intensive accelerated course to become certified firefighters.

The volunteers put in many hours of classroom theory, hands-on training for the safe and appropriate use of the various vehicles and equipment used by the fire department and finally a full “demo burn”.

An abandoned 4 story structure was located and filled with tires, mattresses and wood and subsequently set alight. The teams had to plan and execute an attack on the fire, locate any victims (training dummies), evacuate and then treat them.

The various regional officials who observed the exercises were very impressed with the level of expertise the teams exhibited. We expect this to be a pilot program that will be adopted in other regions as well.



**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.