



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

5 March 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Once again streets of Jerusalem are stricken with fear as a terrorist using a tractor as his weapon unleashed its fury on police and civilians alike. A quick thinking cabbie stopped the attack with his own sidearm. United Hatzalah medics once again lead by the ambucycle squads were on scene moments after the attack. Read more about the attack, weather challenges and special treatment for holocaust survivors.

Have a safe week.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Tractor Terror Attack III

As the saying goes, it was deja vu all over again. United Hatzalah medics heard reports of the a tractor that attacked some vehicles and sprung into action. United Hatzalah Dispatcher Avi Stern in the Moskowitz Command Center immediately took control of the situation on the airwaves. Initial reports from passersby were not clear on the exact location on the Begin Expressway.

Using the communication gear in the Moskowitz Command Center Avi collated the reports, and guided medics on Begin northbound and southbound to the scene. Within 1 minute of the first call an ambucycle was on the scene and reported the exact location, number of injured and scope of the incident. Medics on ambucycles and in their private vehicles streamed to the scene.

A busload of teenage girls, dressed in Purim costumes, were on their way back from cheering up sick kids at Haddassah Medical Center. They had watched in horror as the police car was lifted up and hurled in their direction. The quick thinking bus driver opened the door and urged the girls to escape. Shots rang out and the many girls threw themselves to the ground unaware of the source of the gunfire.

A lamppost between the bus and the police car absorbed the brunt of the impact thereby helping save the girls from physical harm. By the time it was all over there were 2 cops slightly injured and the terrorist mortally wounded





(he died of his wounds in the ambulance en route to the hospital). 8 of the girls were treated for shock. The father of one of the girls stopped by the United Hatzalah headquarters to thank the medics for their speedy arrival and compassionate care.

Winter Returns to Israel

This week winter returned to Israel in a season that had seemed destined to be a dry one.

For some, the rain changed that perception all too rapidly.

Many drivers were unfamiliar with the dangers of flash flooding.

United Hatzalah medics were even called in to help rescue a pedestrian got stuck in the sticky mud caused by the unseasonable rains.



The number on her arm

“I was first one on the scene for a ‘simple’ incident. An elderly lady had fallen in the stairwell, was in pain but conscious. I alerted other United Hatzalah medics that no further assistance was necessary. We would wait for an ambulance to evacuate her to the hospital for evaluation.

I had difficulty communicating with her because she only spoke Yiddish and some Russian. I used hand motions and the few Yiddish words that I knew. I showed her the blood pressure cuff and motioned that I wished to raise her sleeve. It was then that I saw the number. The number that was tattooed on her arm and etched on our collective psyche.

She began to ramble in Yiddish, troubled about her predicament. It was then that treatment protocol shifted from anonymous elderly patient to Holocaust survivor in pain. I did whatever little I could to relieve her discomfort. Her eyes clouded with pain but it seemed to be from a different painful era. I wrapped my arm around her shivering shoulders realizing that the balmy temperature couldn’t explain the tremors.

When the ambulance arrived I helped carefully load the lady on to the wheeled cot hypersensitive to her every wince of pain. Someone asked if she has family here I told them that we are all her family. She patted my hand and smiled as they wheeled her away. I turned away, tears in my eyes calmed by the knowledge that there is more to treatment than bandages and syringes.”



**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.