



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel 12 February 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week we get a glimpse into the lives of the Karnei Shomron squad. I draw your focus to the under-reported ongoing battles in the south and close out with a short recap over the rain challenges our medics faced on the scene throughout Israel.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

One big family

It started as a quiet evening at the Karnei Shomron Security Command Center. The center is a communications hub for all emergency services in the region and is frequently tasked with coordinating responses to terror attacks and car accidents along Route 55 to Kfar Saba.

A frantic call from a lady who found her 63 year-old husband slumped over unconscious in their home shattered the calm in the center. With around 6500 residents and 22 United Hatzalah medics the chances of one of the medics knowing the person they are coming to treat is quite high. This evening was no different.

United Hatzalah medic Roie Cohen was in the command center when the call came through. Rapidly assessing the situation Roie contacted the duty ambulance and updated the United Hatzalah squad about the situation. Roie attempted to do the second most important task of a dispatcher, calming the family. While calming the family Roie heard the calls of the responding units in stereo as they raced into the home. Roie's calming words belied his concerns as his thoughts went back to the recent spate of failed resuscitation efforts in their yishuv.

United Hatzalah medics Yossi Klavin, Yekutiel Schwartz and Chaim Hupert kept a running commentary with Roie as the teams efforts progressed. The wife looked down at the huddle of United Hatzalah medics around her formerly active husband and tried to banish the gloomy thoughts from her mind.



Roie too followed every move from the seemingly remote command center. Roie stepped outside when, after 15 minutes of aggressive resuscitation efforts the call came in “We got a pulse, prepping for evacuation, alert Meir Medical Center that we are en route with a level one cardiac emergency!” Roie let a sigh of relief, congratulated the squad and marveled at how wonderfully all parts of the puzzle came together to save a life in their close-knit yishuv.

Home Front War Continues

With attention in Israel focused on elections, less attention is being paid to the near daily bombardment in the south. Since the cessation of Operation Cast Lead over 40 rockets, mortars and missiles have been fired at southern Israel.

Medics in the south that have been issued personal armor are keeping it handy. Additional armor sets are necessary as they apparently are going to become part of the standard gear for medics operating in “at-risk” zones.

A worrying development is the IDF’s assessment that in the event of another round of fighting missiles with greater ranges will be deployed. With more civilians and therefore more United Hatzalah medics at risk we must invest in another 200 sets of personal armor. We dare not wait until it is too late.



Rain Challenges

While the recent rain (and even snow in higher elevations) was of great relief for the farmers and reservoir watchers in Israel it brought much grief to many drivers as well. United Hatzalah dispatchers in the Moskowitz Command Center alerted volunteer medics to dozens of road rescues in often treacherous road conditions to respond to weather related car accidents.



**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.