



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel 11 September 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week we join our Hatzolah friends in NY/NJ and other emergency response units in remembering the tragic day when so many made the ultimate sacrifice helping others.

In Israel we have additional worries beyond terror and war from external forces. We hear about some volunteers who run into the crossfire of the growing problem of organized crime.

We also take a look at the numbers that paint an dismal picture of the battle for road safety in Israel.

The newsletter closes with a report from the scene of the helicopter crash and the sense of brotherhood among the responding units.

Have a great weekend,

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator



Fighting Organized Crime with Organized Responses

While organized crime as we know it usually operates in the shadowy confines of what we term the underworld, occasionally it bursts forth into the world of law abiding citizens, often with terrifying results.

This week an off-duty medic and former bomb-squad technician noticed a suspicious package near a playground in Netanya. He alerted authorities and a call for standby assistance was issued as bomb-squad technicians neutralized the pipe-bomb.



United Hatzalah volunteers were there and got a brief civics lesson regarding the blatant disregard that these gangsters have for human life.

This comes on the heels of another assassination attempt on alleged crime boss Charlie Abutbol. In a spray of bullets Charlie and 2 bystanders were hit. As the wounded were being transported to the hospital shadowy figures raced alongside the ambulance and attacked the ambulance crew when they arrived at the hospital.

United Hatzalah joins in the outrage at these crimes and urges civilians, emergency services personnel and elected officials to keep up the pressure on this scourge.



Traffic Deaths for the Month of August

This week brought us the final stats on the amount of traffic fatalities on the roads for last month. Reversing what had appeared to be a trend in the declining numbers of fatalities, the August count was 50, bringing the year-to-date total to 306.

The numbers do not define the extent of the tragedies for immediate families nor does it reflect the horrific number of wounded, many of whom will bear the scars for years to come.

United Hatzalah joins forces with the police and other agencies in trying to bring sanity and safety to the streets. We will keep you informed of our various community based educational and informational activities.





“Pair of Cobras Down over Kibbutz Ginegar”

When word went out over the communications net that 2 choppers went down all thoughts went to the horrible crash of '97 when two troop transport helicopters went down over She'ar Yashuv killing 73 servicemen.

All forces were immediately mobilized; IAF, IDF, police, MDA and United Hatzalah. It became immediately clear that there would be no survivors from the flaming fireball that had once been a fearsome fighting machine.

All attention was turned to the second helicopter. The two airmen had already exited and were far more troubled by the fate of their comrades. There were still field checked for bruises and shock based on the initial concern of an emergency landing.

The United Hatzalah medics in the field were amazed at the focus and camaraderie of the various units all intent with the task on hand and the loss of two brave men. Our thoughts go out to their families.



**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.